

GOAL FOR NOVEMBER: *Finish Well!*

This is officially the last month of the Fall semester of Growth Groups. Make sure you end the group well. This entails the following:

- Frequently reminding the group November is the final month.
- Scheduling a holiday get together (Christmas party, New Years, etc.)
- Talking to your co-leader about future plans with the group.

BEGINNING THE NIGHT: *Opening Prayer and Icebreaker*

“Pow-Wow”: Have each person think over the past few months of their life. Then have each person share one **“pow”** (the most discouraging thing they’ve needed the Lord’s help for) and one **“wow”** (the most encouraging thing they feel the Lord has done for them).

DISCUSSING THE SERMON:

SAY: “The big point from this week’s sermon was *Submission is Mission*. For the next three weeks Peter is going to walk us through three the ways in which God calls us to submit ourselves in various domains of life.”

1. Before getting into the specifics of the sermon, what were your initial reactions and impressions of the sermon or the workbook?

Always be sure to give people time to think. Resist the urge to say something to fill in “awkward silence.” If people have a hard time recalling the sermon, you may want to read the text again and the sermon summary to jog their memory.

2. When you all hear the word “submit” or “subject” what sort of thoughts or reactions come to your mind and heart? Explain.

You may want to read the definition of “subjection” to the right of this page. Reading that may invoke more responses on the part of the group.

A follow-up question could be, “What is it about our sin that makes it hard for us to do this?” A cross-reference verse could be Romans 8:7-8.

3. What kinds of things make it difficult for us to subject ourselves to authorities in our life?

You may want to preface this question by saying, “Without using cliché answers like ‘sin’ or ‘pride’” The reason it is important to say thing different from cliché’s is because the more specific responses hit spots in our hearts. Some things people could list are: 1) not wanting to appear weak, 2) wanting to protect my sense of dignity and independence, 3) the leader is not worthy of my respect, 4) me feeling like I can do better than the person, etc.

4. It was said in the sermon, “We are not only supposed to speak honestly, but honorably” in regard to political issues. In what way does the gospel compel us to either repent of dishonorable speech or speak honorably?

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Membership Class is Sunday, Nov. 17 from 1:00-3:30. Registration closes Friday! Lunch provided.

Next Sunday we are studying **1 Peter 2:18-25**. Complete the questions on **pages 38-41** before this upcoming Sunday.

SERMON SUMMARY

God calls each and every one of his children to submit ourselves to the various authorities in our lives. The ultimate authority, though, in our hearts is the Lord and are subject to him.

DEFINITIONS

Subjection: to bring one’s self willingly under another person’s authority.

Growth Groups: Week 10 – “Submission is Mission” (1 Peter 2:13-17)

5. It was also said in the sermon that civil disobedience should be the last resort. That is, before we resort to it, we ought to have sought out plenty of wise counsel and prayer. Why do you think this is so important? What causes us to short-circuit this process?

One of the reasons this is so important is because our hearts can be motivated by pride, self-righteousness, and sin, as opposed to righteous motivations. We may rush into to quickly without thinking the what, why and how of it. Wise counsel also keeps us humble throughout the process.

Some causes of short-circuiting the process is 1) impatience, 2) a lack of humility, 3) we don't want to be told that we shouldn't etc.

6. Have you ever had to speak out or resist an authority out of biblical convictions? How did that go? Did you do it in an honorable way and “for the Lord’s sake”?

Depending on the types of things you hear, you may want to prepare to ask the question, “How did Jesus want you to respond?” You may want to dig in a little bit into people’s stories based upon the things they share. You could ask things like, “Was that difficult or easy for you to do? Why?” Feel free to ask people questions and encourage the group to ask people questions about their experiences.

7. In what way does our subjection/submission to authorities serve as an evangelistic witness? Do you personally need to repent of any lack of willing and glad submission to authorities in your life?

FIRST QUESTION: One of the biggest ways it serves as a witness is in our humility and gentleness in our submission. People are very perplexed when we humbly, confidently, and joyfully submit to authority. There are few things that stand out in the world more than someone who speaks honorably and kindly to and about those in authority.

SECOND QUESTION: This one could be fresh for many people, and you may need to take time to pray together about it.

CLOSING IN PRAYER (TIPS BELOW)

- Leave plenty of time to pray.
- Remind people to be patient as the group grows in comfortability praying together. It will take time. People should not feel forced to pray.
- Be careful you don't spend too much time taking “prayer requests.”
- When you start give people permission to sit in silence and pray only if they feel like God wants them to pray for something.
- Encourage people to not feel like they have to say long or sophisticated prayers, but simple ones are just acceptable to God.