

Applying It In My LifeGroup time - 25 minutes

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-17. Our belief should be based upon faith in the facts of the Christian faith. Feelings then follow our faith. (*Fact/Faith/Feelings*) What needs to happen for you to move from feelings or experiences to a real, effectual and mature faith? How can our faith grow from being simply planted to full maturity? How have you seen this happen in your walk with Christ?

2. Have you read of miracles accompanying a great harvest of new believers on the mission fields in our day? What place do miracles have in evangelism today – both in our country and abroad? How do you respond to those who wonder why we do not seem to see the same kind of miracles today that were present in the early church?

3. How has Jesus lifted you out of the darkness and despair of your life to a new life filled with wonder and hope? How can we as a small group encourage each other to trust in Jesus in all areas of our lives, especially those areas where we are most desperate and desire God to “show up”?

Prayer TimeGroup time - 15 minutes

Praise God that the Christian faith is one of belief in the truth (facts) of God’s Word. Thank God for revealing Himself in Christ, through His life, death and resurrection. Ask God to give you a mature and established faith based upon His Word and His work in your life.

Finish your prayer time by praying for the needs of those in your *Growth Group*. Take a few minutes to share prayer requests. Ask someone in the group to record your prayers so that in future weeks you can see where God is answering your prayers.

BELIEVE *Greater than Your Desperation*

A Desperate Problem

John 4:43-47

- This is an urgent need, a DESPERATE plea.

The Greater Problem

John 4:48

- Jesus’ greatest priority is to help people to BELIEVE.

What do you view as your greatest problem?

Jesus is Greater Still

John 4:49-54

- Jesus is the one with the POWER to heal and fix our most desperate of problems.

- Unbelief is a GREATER problem than our desperation, but Jesus is greater still.

REACH NEPAL – South Shores recently launched an effort to reach two unengaged people groups in Nepal – the Dhimal and the Kayort. How will you be a part of this effort as an individual, family or *Growth Group*? Please join your church family in praying for and giving generously to reach these hidden people groups.

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of February 23-28, 2015

Getting StartedGroup time - 15 minutes

1. When you were growing up, did you have a serious illness or injury that greatly concerned your parents? Describe the situation. How did your parents respond in their desperation? As you look back on that time what did you learn about the kinds of ways we respond when we are in desperate situations?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's WordGroup time - 35 minutes

Read **John 4:43-54** (In preparation to answer questions)

1. What town did Jesus return to? What miracle had Jesus previously done in this town? What do we know about the man who made this request of Jesus? What problem did the man have, and how serious was the problem?

2. How was the motivation of the Galileans to see Jesus do miracles different from the official's? How did Jesus respond to the request for a miracle? How was this request and miracle different than the miracles Jesus had done in His ministry up to that point?

3. Describe what Jesus said and did to bring about the requested healing of the official's child? How did this strengthen the impact of the miracle? How did the nobleman confirm that the healing was the result of what Jesus did?

4. What are the factors that caused the royal official's household (immediate family, extended family, and servants) to believe? How mature was this faith initially? How did the royal official move past a "miracles-based faith" to a more mature faith?

5. Many of the Galileans believed mainly because they had seen Jesus do miracles. In what ways do miracles help build faith? Why does only seeing miracles and believing because of them not build a mature faith? Why does Jesus rebuke the Galileans? What was the weakness of the Galileans' experience?