WHAT IS A HEALTHY CHURCH MEMBER?

BY THABITI ANYABWILE

THIS BOOK ANSWERS THE QUESTION: "How will you become a BETTER MEMBER AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE HEALTH OF GOD'S FAMILY IN THIS PLACE (THE LOCAL CHURCH)?" "THE HEALTH OF THE LOCAL CHURCH DEPENDS UPON THE WILLINGNESS OF ITS MEMBERS TO INSPECT THEIR HEARTS, CORRECT THEIR THINKING, AND APPLY THEIR HANDS TO THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY" (PAGE 15).

Community Group Questions

LEADERSHIP TIPS (From a training session at Sov Grace Fairfax, VA) *Five Pointers on Using the Take It Home Questions:*

- 1. You'll always have twice as many Take it Home questions as you will need for your group. Choose ones that might be most helpful for your group.
- 2. Don't focus on answering all the questions, use the questions to get into personal application.
- 3. Take some time to read the passage and remind the folks of the main points and key ideas, but keep this as brief as possible. Don't re-preach the message.
- 4. Come with a back-up plan. If you're not getting a lift from the Take it Home questions, have a question relevant to what's going on with the folks in the group.
- 5. Try to engage folks in responding *to each other*, so you don't become the 'answer person'.

Leaders remember our monthly goals

- 1. Prayer- around gospel encounters, pains in the group, praises of our great God.
- 2. Encourage intentional living (gospeling in the everyday)
- 3. Verbally inform about church life- announcements (or prayer about facility, prayer regarding pressing issues in your group or in the church- see point one)
- 4. Apply the word
 - a. Scripture memory- I Corinthians 10:13
 - b. sermon application
 - c. Putting off the old self and putting on Christ
 - i. confession leading to repentance through

- ii. accountability- we want people to be suspicious of their own hearts and learn to apply the gospel with adults and children.
- 5. Joy in all you do ☺

CHAPTERS 7 & 8

Seek to apply some of the following questions:

- 1. Talk about interesting parts from Chapters 7 & 8. Share one idea God used to convict or comfort your heart.
- 2. Explain the 2 forms of church discipline found on page 75 (formative and corrective discipline). Have group members share how the Scriptures, through specific verses, have recently served to train, mold, and shape them in godliness as a means of formative discipline.
- 3. Discuss with the group the 4 questions at the top of page 78. In which areas do group members need to grow in order to truly receive the Word of God with meekness?
- 4. Encourage one another to humbly receive and accept correction. Discuss how we can cultivate deeper relationships (in community groups, O2 groups, etc.) in which correction is invited in and carefully given as a means of loving our brother/sister in Christ.
- 5. From pages 86-87, ask group members to share how they're tempted to wrongly measure growth in their Christian lives (by outward performance, by prideful comparisons, or by self-effort).
- 6. Remind one another of the ordinary means of grace that foster growth in the Christian life (studying the Word of God, partaking in the Lord's Supper and baptism along with the church, and prayer). Which means of growth are most lacking in group members lives right now?
- 7. One necessary means of grace and growth is participating in corporate worship. What tempts group members to neglect meeting together corporately? Encourage members to see the necessity of gathering corporately for their joy in Christ.
- 8. Have group members encourage one another with evidences of growth they see in others.
- 9. Have members share Scriptures that remind us of Jesus' 2nd coming, so that we meditate on and grow in Him.