

July 6, 2003

Week Thirty-five: "Living by Faith"

Day One: Small Group Guide

Read: Amos 7:7-8 (p. 1006)

Read: Commentary (p. 1008)

Reflect: Fill out this personal evaluation form also found on p. 1009

1=Low 5=High

How successful am I? 1 2 3 4 5

I would be more successful

if _____

How significant am I? 1 2 3 4 5

I would be more significant if

How fulfilled am I? 1 2 3 4 5

I would be more fulfilled if

How satisfied am I? 1 2 3 4 5

I would be more satisfied

if _____

How encouraged am I? 1 2 3 4 5

I would be more encouraged

if _____

How happy am I? 1 2 3 4 5

I would be more happy

if _____

How much fun am I having? 1 2 3 4 5

I would have more fun if _____

How secure am I? 1 2 3 4 5

I would be more secure if _____

How peaceful am I? 1 2 3 4 5

I would be more peaceful if _____

Dig: read verses 1-9 of Amos chapter 7. How do vss. 7-8 fit into this passage, and what is God doing here?

Read the "Freedom Point" on p. 1006. How does this commentary help you understand the meaning of the plumb line?

Read the "Truth Statements" on pp. 1513-1514. Which truth is an active plumb-line in your life at this time?

Apply: Write out one of the truth statements on p. 1513-1514 and then say a prayer to God, asking him to use this truth to convict you of sin and set you free from false ideas.

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Day Two: "Success"

Read: Joshua 1:7-9 (p. 234)

Read: Commentary (p. 235)

Reflect: How would you define success in your life?

Dig: What command is repeated three times from Joshua 1:6-9?

What is the reason given for this command?

How does the "Freedom Point" help you understand this passage?

Compare this call from God in Joshua 1:7-9 to Psalm 1; what are the similarities?

Who is the "man" in Joshua 5:13-15 and why did Joshua need that kind of encounter?

Apply: Where in your life does God want you to become more bold and courageous? Ask him to help you understand the biblical pathway to success.

Week Thirty-five: "Living by Faith"
Day Three: "Significance"

Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 (p. 734)

Read: Commentary (p. 735)

Reflect: What is the most significant thing you have participated in?

Dig: What does it mean that "...God set eternity in the hearts of men"?
See Romans 1:19-20 (p. 1279) for a biblical answer to this question.

Look up I Corinthians 3:10-15 (p. 1307) for more teaching on significance.
What do you learn from this passage?

Read the "Freedom Point" on p. 734. How does the author tie this text into freedom for the believer? Do you agree?

Apply: Make a list of the things and events that you attach significance to which are of no account in the end. Ask God to free you from the bondage of such thinking.

Week Thirty-five: "Living by Faith"
Day Four: "Fulfillment"

Read: Habakkuk 3:17-19 (p. 1040)

Read: Commentary (p. 1039)

Reflect: In what do you find real and lasting fulfillment? What does the media tell us is fulfilling?

Dig: What is the occasion for Habakkuk's prayer and anguish? (see vss. 5-6 and the introduction to this book (p. 1035))

How are these passages similar?

Daniel 3:16-18 (p. 965)

Esther 4:15-16 (p. 545)

Philippians 3:7-11 (p. 1368)

According to the commentary, how do we find fulfillment?

Apply: Take the verses of this text from Habakkuk 3:17-19 and re-write them to make them current for your own circumstances. Use this re-written scripture as a prayer to God for today.

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Day Five: "Satisfaction"

Read: Ecclesiastes 5:10 (p.737)

Read: Commentary (p. 737)

Reflect: Do we live in a society in which there is a lot of satisfaction expressed? Why or why not?

Dig: What does Eccl. 5:10 teach us about money?

What does Jesus teach in Matthew 6:19-24 (p. 1083)?

What do the previous verses of this chapter have to do with what verse 10 says? For example, what do verses 6-7 contribute to your understanding?

The commentary says "People are satisfied by meaningful ministries that bear fruit, and quality relationships with God and others. Seldom will you see a fruit-bearing Christian who isn't satisfied." How does this accord with the closing to this book of the Bible? See Eccl. 12:13-14 (p. 743)

Apply: Ask God to continually arrange your attitude toward money so that you find satisfaction in what truly matters. Now make a determination to use money today and this week to glorify God.