



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Ice Breaker: If you won the lottery today, what would be your first action step? And your second?

Instructions: Bi-weekly groups, answer questions 2 & 4 this week.

1. Look back at the definition of “True Grit” given in your message notes. Read Revelation 2:8-11. How did the church in Smyrna demonstrate true grit? Have you ever seen someone demonstrate true grit through a challenging circumstance? How has that person’s story affected you?
2. Pastor Tom explained that our external circumstances don’t necessarily reflect our true spiritual condition. Read Matthew 10:22a and John 15:18. Why do you think Jesus warned that we would be hated for following Him? Read 1 Timothy 6:10, Jeremiah 12:1 and Philippians 3:7-8. What do these verses say about wealth, possessions and knowing Christ? Have you ever experienced meeting or knowing someone who was truly “rich?” What made them distinct?
3. Re-read Revelation 2:10. What is promised in this verse about life’s troubles? Consider what Pastor Tom said, that “God is so amazing and great that He can turn the evil works of the devil into something that brings Him glory.” How does this impact your view of life as well as embracing what really matters?
4. When we face adversity, Jesus wants us to be faithful. This is what the church in Smyrna did well. Read Hebrews 13:5, Mathew 28:20b and Revelations 2:8-11. What are we promised as we go through life and its troubles? (Hint: see message notes for review.) Are you facing adversity today? How can we help each other to be Christ followers with “true grit?” What action steps do you and/or your group need to take to support one another this week?

PERSONAL GUIDE FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6TH

DAY 1 - Read 1 Timothy 6. *How are believers to live based on Paul’s words to Timothy?*

DAY 2 - Read Philippians 3:1-11. *Why should we live by faith versus our own efforts at righteousness?*

DAY 3 - Read Philippians 3:12-21. *Where is our true citizenship and why does it matter?*

DAY 4 - Read Hebrews 13. *How is this passage similar to Phil. 3? What promises are in this chapter?*

DAY 5 - Read Matthew 28:16-20. *In what way is Jesus’ promise to be with us significant? How does this help us remain faithful despite life’s hardships?*

FURTHER READING - You are RICH! Craig Groeschel wrote a thoughtful article in *Relevant Magazine* that tells us our responsibility with our wealth. Read it at http://bit.ly/I_am_RICH.





“True Grit” [Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

“True Grit” = “Strength of mind and the _____ to see through one’s convictions even in the face of strong adversity...perseverance and p_____ for long-term goals.”

1. What Jesus Followers _____ in Smyrna (note Revelation 2:8)

Only one of the 7 cities still in existence today (_____, Turkey).
One of the first cities to engage in Emperor worship (“_____ is Lord”).
Also a large and aggressive _____ population.

But the message of Jesus is one we in Western world would struggle with personally, and we probably wouldn’t connect with a church that is _____ by God with “true grit”.

2. External Circumstances Don’t Necessarily Reflect Our True Spiritual Condition (note Revelation 2:9a)

“affliction” = tribulation, serious trouble, “under a burden that _____”
(note Matthew 10:22a and John 15:18).

“poverty” = extreme poverty, have _____.

_____ persecution of Christ-followers in Smyrna a historical fact
(i.e., Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna burned at the stake on Sabbath day!).

Jesus doesn’t correct this church...instead He tells them they are _____”
(note 1 Timothy 6:10).

...material blessings and lack of problems aren’t necessarily proof of God’s
_____ (note Jeremiah 12:1b).

Note Philippians 3:7-8

When Jesus looked at the church in Smyrna, He measured it’s _____
not by financial reports of condition of its facilities or how many programs running; but
by the priority and passion of _____ hearts and lives.

Only _____ of 7 churches receive no correction from Jesus; Smyrna one of those
_____ churches.

3. _____ What Really Matters (note Revelation 2:10)

“10 days” = usually _____ days in Revelation describe a short period of suffering.

God is so amazing and great that He can turn the evil works of the _____
into something that brings Him glory.

Real goal as Jesus’ followers is = “Be _____”.

Following Jesus has never meant a _____ in this life that we’ll
be healthy, wealthy, or trouble-free.

But we are promised:

- We’ll never be _____ (note Hebrews 13:5 and Matthew 28:20b).
- Jesus understands our times of pain and trials because He also _____.
- _____ doesn’t win in God’s Kingdom...(note Revelation 2:11b)
- That neither death nor the evil one has the final word, but only Jesus Christ does (note Revelation 2:8).
- Jesus not only notices faithfulness, but _____ it (note Revelation 2:10c).

“Crown of life” = wreath or garland given to winners in ancient athletic contests.

What Jesus wants us to know and do:

- Wall Street, Hollywood, and a “n_____ it and c_____ it” mentality aren’t the source of wealth that matters and lasts forever.
- _____ wealth is produced by God’s grace in the life of a disciple of Jesus who have as their highest priority and passion to be Jesus followers with “true grit” = “one who _____ to their goals despite numerous issues, problems, setbacks and failures...firmness of mind and unyielding _____...tenacious and show a perseverance and passion for long-term _____” = “faithfulness”.
- Let’s be people and a church that pursue genuine wealth, real treasure that can never be stolen, lost, or destroyed, but is stored in an “eternal _____” by Jesus Himself.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“True Grit”

[Sr. Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

MESSAGE NOTES

"True Grit" = "Strength of mind and the courage to see through one's convictions even in the face of strong adversity...perseverance and passion for long-term goals."

1. What Jesus Followers Faced in Smyrna (note Revelation 2:8)

Only one of the 7 cities still in existence today (Izmir, Turkey).
One of the first cities to engage in Emperor worship ("Caesar is Lord").
Also a large and aggressive Jewish population.

But the message of Jesus is one we in Western world would struggle with personally, and we probably wouldn't connect with a church that is blessed by God with "true grit".

2. External Circumstances Don't Necessarily Reflect Our True Spiritual Condition (note Revelation 2:9a)

"affliction" = tribulation, serious trouble, "under a burden that crushes" (note Matthew 10:22a and John 15:18).
"poverty" = extreme poverty, have nothing.

Jewish persecution of Christ-followers in Smyrna a historical fact (i.e., Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna burned at the stake on Sabbath day!).

Jesus doesn't correct this church...instead He tells them they are "rich" (note 1 Timothy 6:10).
...material blessings and lack of problems aren't necessarily proof of God's blessings (note Jeremiah 12:1b).

Note Philippians 3:7-8

When Jesus looked at the church in Smyrna, He measured it's health not by financial reports or condition of it's facilities or how many programs running; but by the priority and passion of people's hearts and lives.

Only 2 of 7 churches receive no correction from Jesus; Smyrna one of those 2 churches.

3. Embrace What Really Matters (note Revelation 2:10)

"10 days" = usually 3 1/2 days in Revelation describe a short period of suffering.
God is so amazing and great that He can turn the evil works of the devil into something that brings Him glory.

Real goal as Jesus' followers is = "Be faithful".

Following Jesus has never meant a guarantee in this life that we'll be healthy, wealthy, or trouble-free.
But we are promised:

- we'll never be alone (note Hebrews 13:5 and Matthew 28:20b).
- Jesus understands our times of pain and trials because He also suffered.
- death doesn't win in God's Kingdom... (note Revelation 2:11b)
- that neither death nor the evil one has the final word, but only Jesus Christ does (note Revelation 2:8).
- Jesus not only notices faithfulness, but rewards it (note Revelation 2:10c).

"Crown of life" = wreath or garland given to winners in ancient athletic contests.

What Jesus wants us to know and do:

- Wall Street, Hollywood, and a "name it and claim it" mentality aren't the source of wealth that matters and lasts forever.
- Genuine wealth is produced by God's grace in the life of a disciple of Jesus who have as their highest priority and passion to be Jesus followers with "true grit" = "one who sticks to their goals despite numerous issues, problems, setbacks and failures...firmness of mind and unyielding courage...tenacious and show a perseverance and passion for long-term goals" = "faithfulness".
- Let's be people and a church that pursue genuine wealth, real treasure that can never be stolen, lost, or destroyed, but is stored in an "eternal safe deposit box" by Jesus Himself.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!