

Series: Pivot

Message: Practical Teaching

October 12, 2014

Five Things God Uses To Grow Your Faith

1. Practical teaching
2. Providential relationships
3. Private (spiritual) disciplines
4. Personal ministry
5. Pivotal circumstances

Providential relationships allow us to hear from God through others. Proverbs 13:20

Providential relationships:

- Seemingly unplanned—accidental
- Intentional
- Time specific

Negative relational influences are unavoidable.
Proverbs 13:20, 1 Corinthians 15:33

It is pivotal to be intentional about pursuing those relationships God has providentially brought our way.

Providential relationships are a visible expression of God's invisible grace. Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

Life Group Questions

For week of October 12, 2014

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great meeting as you come together to connect, encourage one another to grow and to see God change your lives from the inside out!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Looking back, are there people you feel God providentially brought into your life at crucial times? Who? How did God use them?
2. Looking back, is there a time when you feel God brought someone across your path that could have helped you, but you resisted the relationship?
3. Are there those in your circle of relationships that would say YOU are someone God providentially dropped into their lives?

Going Deeper

Read Proverbs 13:20 and 1 Corinthians 15:33.

Biblically speaking, a fool is someone who knows the difference between right and wrong but doesn't care. A wise person is one who knows the difference and seeks to do what is right. Based on your experiences, why do you think Solomon highlights what a person becomes (i.e., "wise") in the first half of the verse, while he highlights what will happen (i.e., "suffering harm") in the second half?

We're surrounded by wisdom and foolishness from all sides. Is it possible to completely ignore the companionship of fools? Should you?

How do you balance the relationships in your life that strengthen your faith and the relationships that could inhibit your spiritual growth knowing full well that these relationships could also be pivotal for others to draw closer to God?

Read Acts 2:42-44. What kind of relationship choices did the early church make?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:7-12. What part of this passage leaves the biggest impression on you? Why?

Read Romans 1:11-12. What did Paul understand about encouragement and faith?

Take it home

Memorize Proverbs 13:20. "Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm."

What are one or two things you can do to intentionally pursue wise relationships?

Pray for God's leading in all your relationships.

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen.

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16).