



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Fall Quarter - Lesson 1 - Week of September 8, 2024

Lesson: GETTING OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT

Bible Verses: Psalm 103:2-4; Deuteronomy 6:10-13; Job 36:24; Psalm 33:1;
Matthew 6:33-34; Luke 10:38-42; I Timothy 6:17-19

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What is your best childhood memory?
2. Do you enjoy what you do for a living?

DISCUSSION

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases . . . who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies. - Psalm 103:2-4 NKJV

Reflection: What are your current top priorities and how are you pursuing them?

Situation: King David, the author of Psalm 103, was a man who had many responsibilities and many priorities in life. When those priorities included God, he was successful in what he did: slaying the giant Goliath; eluding capture by King Saul; assuming the throne of Israel; and vanquishing the nation's enemies. But when David became complacent in his role and allowed the familiarity of day-to-day palace life to distract him, negative consequences soon followed. One notable instance is recorded in 2 Samuel 11:1: "In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war . . . David remained in Jerusalem." What followed, of course, was David's adulterous affair with Bathsheba and soon a revolt against him. Yet, even in these times of distress, David knew that if he refocused his priorities on God, the Lord would be compassionate and forgive him. "As a father has compassion for his children," he wrote in Psalm 103:13, "so the Lord has compassion for those who fear Him."

Observation: Read Psalm 103:1-14 (NKJV)

Exploration:

1. Why is it critical, in the daily stresses of life, to "forget not" all of God's blessings?
2. What are some ways that David expresses his praise to God for his blessings?
3. What do you learn about God's character from this psalm?
4. What does David say about the way God treats our transgressions when we confess our sins and repent of them?
5. Why is it comforting to know that God "remembers that we are dust" (verse 14)?
6. What are some of the ways that God helps you to refocus your priorities on Him?

Inspiration: There will come a time when your small children who sit around your kitchen table will soon be at their own tables, and your parents, siblings, and other family members may no longer be here. We must ensure that our priorities concerning God and our families remain clear and in the right order. Life is like a vapor that appears for a little while and then it is over.

Reaction:

1. How can familiarity divert your focus from life's most important things?
2. What happens when you give in to "agents of familiarity" and neglect the important things in life?
3. David's words in Psalm 103 recount many of the blessings God had given to his people. Why is it important to reflect on these types of past blessings from God?
4. Why do you think it is easy to overlook giving thanks to God?
5. How will you praise God for His compassion towards you?

Life Lessons: It's easy to overlook the familiar in life: the Styrofoam cup that is mindlessly tossed in the trash; the crystal glass; a wedding gift that sits in the lighted hutch near the dining room. But what if that Styrofoam cup were used to get critically needed medication into a dying person? Suddenly, the overlooked becomes important. David reminds us in this psalm to "forget not {God's} benefits" or to take anything for granted (Psalm 103:2). God invests everything with value, even turning ashes into beauty (see Isaiah 61:3). As Paul writes in Romans 8:28, "In all things God works for good," even the mundane. So, never overlook the simple, everyday blessings of God (forgiveness, mercy, rest, comfort) and praise the Lord for them.

Devotion: Lord, it is easy to become complacent in our faith and forget the everyday mercies you extend to us. Please help us focus our priorities on you and remember our blessings. You are worthy of our praise.

Journaling: What changes do you need to make this week in your priorities?

Prayer Focus: God, help us to be mindful of the blessings that come from you.