

Small Group Homework

For the week of February 12, 2017

GETTING STARTED

According to an ancestry.com survey: only half of Americans know their great-grandparents' names; 22% of Americans don't know what their grandfathers did/do for a job; 27% of Americans don't know where their ancestors came from before settling in America. How would you do on those survey questions?

LOOKING BACK

Looking back on Sunday, is there anything that stood out to you, confused you, or challenged you?

MY STORY

Pastor and author Peter Scazzero says in his book, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* (Thomas Nelson, 2006): "...the more we know about our families, the more we know about ourselves – and the more freedom we have to make decisions how we want to live. We can say: 'This is what I want to keep. This is what I do not want to bring with me into the next generation.'"

1. Have you ever surprised yourself when you sounded or acted like someone who raised you?
2. What is something you really value from your family of origin that you want to hold onto?
3. Is there anything you consciously choose to leave behind (only share specifics to the extent that you are comfortable)?
4. How might growing in your knowledge of your family history (healthy patterns, harmful patterns, important events, etc.) help you grow as a disciple of Christ?
5. What can you do to learn more about your family?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read **Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)**: ⁶ *And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.* ⁷ *Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.*

1. How does learning about the ancestors of Jesus in the Old Testament help us follow Him?
2. In verse 7 above, what two outcomes does Paul say we will experience as we let our lives be built on Christ Jesus as our Lord?

Read two of the verses that surround the passage above; **Colossians 2:4,8 (NLT)**: *I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments .Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.*

1. According to Paul, what dangers do we face if we leave our knowledge of Christ and obedience to Him at a surface level?

BRINGING IT HOME

A *broad* knowledge of Scripture isn't *deep* at all if it doesn't lead to actually obeying Christ and becoming more like Him. For instance, the people with the greatest biblical knowledge at the time of Jesus were the ones who called for His arrest and execution. People with a broad knowledge of Scripture have justified slavery, murder, and many cruel injustices in our history.

1. What prevents some biblically knowledgeable people today from living like Christ?
2. How can we overcome our own barriers to obedience, and be truly, deeply rooted in Christ Jesus?

PRAYERS: