

## Small Groups – Faith and Christian Responsibility

by Pastor Dick Braun

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Week \_\_\_\_\_

### Icebreaker

Being a Christian is about being good and living a good life, right or wrong? Why?

### Opening Prayer

Father God, we thank you for your mercy and grace. Allow us to understand how to respond to your call. We are honored by your presence and ask that you speak to us through your word and the Holy Spirit. Please bring our hearts into submission to you, amen.

### Open It

1. What kind of person are you? a) do you have a mystic personality - able to see God in everything b) more of a logical, if  $a = b$  and  $b = c$ , then  $a = c$  personality - or c) a from Missouri personality - stubborn, don't believe anything till you see it approach life. Why are you?
2. What has contributed most to your current personality? The culture around you, your family genetics, or your workplace & educational environment. Explain
3. Do you appreciate differences in people, or do you like people to be the same? Why?
4. Tell us about one culture, not your own, with which you are somewhat familiar. What do you like and what do you dislike about that culture? Where did those ideas come from?

John 16:5-15 Here, John is talking about the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians.

"But now I am going away to the one who sent me; and none of you seems interested in the purpose of my going; none wonders why. [6] Instead, you are only filled with sorrow. [7] But the fact of the matter is that it is best for you that I go away, for if I don't, the Comforter won't come. If I do, he will--for I will send him to you.

[8] "And when he has come he will convince the world of its sin, and of the availability of God's goodness, and deliverance from judgment. [9] The world's sin is unbelief in me; [10] there is righteousness available because I go to the Father and you shall see me no more; [11] there is deliverance from judgment because the prince of this world has already been judged.

[12] "Oh, there is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't understand it now. [13] When the Holy Spirit, who is truth, comes, he shall guide you into all truth, for he will not be presenting his own ideas but will be passing on to you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. [14] He shall praise me and bring me great honor by showing you my glory. [15] All the Father's glory is mine; this is what I mean when I say that he will show you my glory.

### Explore It

1. Read [Matt 7:21-23](#) Jesus says not everyone who says Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven. Have you experienced a two-faced Christian? Have you ever been a two-faced Christian? What message is there for us in these few verses in Matthew?
2. Often, we put Christians on a higher plane or level of accountability. Is it appropriate that we have higher expectations for Christians? Is that a Biblical perspective?

3. Read [Eph 4:24-32](#). Do you know a Christian who actually lives out these verses? Are they an example to you, or are they more of a hindrance because they seem so perfect? Explain yourself.
4. Does our conscience have anything to do with becoming a Christian? Does it have anything to do with us being able to live like Christians? What's the relationship in each case?

### **Get It**

1. The Holy Spirit works with our conscience to convict us of our sin, and the Scripture says our sin is unbelief in Christ. Is this relationship clear to you? If not, why not?
2. Verse 13 says that when the Spirit of truth comes, he shall guide you into all truth. What does this mean in the life of a Christian? Read [Eph 5:1-7](#) if you have no clue.
3. Sometimes, Christians feel we have a direct connection with God. After all, in verse 14, the NIV version says he will take what is mine and make it known to you. Does this mean that I will better know what God is saying to us today as a Christian? Explain your answer.
4. Read v 13, 14 & 15 from above again. Does it have anything to do with knowing what God may say to us today? It sounds to me like being guided into truth only involves learning about what will glorify God and lead us to believe in Him. What do you think?
5. Some Christians say "having peace about it" is a sign of making the right choice about something. However; in [Col. 3:14-15](#) NASB, it says;  
"And beyond all these things, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. [15] And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful." Does this have anything to do with the Spirit of Truth guiding us into all truth? Why?

### **Apply It**

1. Paul exhorts the Philippians about living and standing firm in the Lord. Read Phil 4 and list the things that Paul has recommended. He encourages us to "practice these things," and the God of peace shall be with you (us). I recommend using this list in your daily prayers or devotions as an encouragement about what to pray for as a Christian.
2. Life is a journey, many people say. Bruce Larson has written a book called "*Where Will You Be When You Get Where You're Going*," Traveling with Jesus on the Roads of Life. There are sections in this book that are very touching and illustrate how our position in life has nothing to do with what God can accomplish through us if we allow him that freedom in our lives.
3. Jesus was asked, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" His reply to the scribes in Mark 12:30-31 should be our absolute bottom line as Christians.  
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' [31] The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Pray for the power to do this, and watch out.

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord of all life, maker, creator, and loving God. Allow us to glorify you in everything we do and say as your people. Walk with us and speak to us through your Word and Spirit. Amen.