

Small Group Study Guide – September 27, 2015

Getting Started (15 minutes)

It's like Opening Day in baseball — a new group, a new season, fresh enthusiasm! Take time to catch up on news, introduce new people, and celebrate any summer events worth noting!

Talking It Through (25 minutes)

1. Re-read Sunday's text: I Corinthians 5. Let's talk about the immediate circumstances: What's going on in the church at Corinth? What are they possibly thinking? How could this situation have developed?

2. On Sunday Pastor Jay listed several principles for today's church. Take a look at your notes from Sunday on these three elements. Which of these three makes the most sense to you? Which of these three do you find most difficult or most in need of careful explanation?

3. In I Corinthians 5:9-11 Paul speaks very strongly about how we should (or should not) interact with a person who *claims* to be a believer but lives in open opposition to God's standards. What do you think Paul has in mind by "associate" or "eat with"? What if that person seems to be repentant?

Bonus question: Don't we typically ignore this text? How come?

The Church: A Community Set Apart
I Corinthians 5
Pastor Jay Mosser

Going Deeper (10 minutes)

Let's talk about church membership & church discipline!

- What reasons do you think believers give for *not* being actual, formal members of a local church?
- What reasons might be given for why formal church membership *is* a good idea?
- What is church discipline anyway? Is it just about getting "kicked out" of a church? Is it something mean?

Taking It Home (10 minutes)

READ I Corinthians 9:24-27. Paul is passionate about chasing Jesus & a life of holiness. What actions might a Christian take today to *pursue* holiness? What exactly does that look like?

Time to PRAY (10 minutes)

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take a few minutes to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then find a couple of volunteers to pray for those needs.

Next Sunday:

October 4, 2015

"Do You Believe in Truth...
And Does It Matter?"

I John 1:1-4 (Pastor Jay Mosser)