

DEVOTED

Study Week Four

Remembering

Leaders guide for "Devoted" group facilitators.

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This week marks the halfway point of our 5 week Devoted adventure as a group. This is a good time to take inventory. Ask your group members to relate their experiences to date. Take note of the highs and the lows, praise Jesus for the victories and blessings gained, and encourage (pray for) those who might be struggling.

At the close of this session we will partake in the Lord's Supper together. (See Attached File for Communion) Also, Arron will introduce a term new to most of us, "Descanso"... your group will be encouraged to construct a Descanso meaningful to it.

Breaking the Ice:

Play this week's primer video. Share with the group that Remember, Remembrance in the Old Testament conveyed three thoughts; to remember, to think of, and to mention. In the New Testament when Jesus, at the Last Supper, used the word remembrance, He specifically meant to remember Him. Read Luke 22:19 and 1 Corinthians 11:24 & 25. In these passages we are to partake of the Lord's Supper "in memory of" Jesus. We do it as a "reminder" of what He has done, is doing, and means to us.

Ask: what are some every day symbols/tokens/indicators that call important events or aspects of our lives to mind and, by them, we display their importance and meaning? Hint: wedding rings, picture albums, baseball caps, pro sports jerseys, bumper stickers, jewelry etc.

Ask, how do we, as a group, demonstrate tangibly (not symbolically) our REMEMBRANCE of Jesus? Ask further, how, as a group, can we do so in the future? (hint: adopt a group ministry, we call help you in this)

Unpacking this week's message:

Recount the story Arron shared about the boy who unintentionally killed his grandmother's pet duck. Satan has a way of perverting everything God means as good, including our ability to remember. Did this story strike a chord with anyone in the group? Read John 10:10. What is Satan's intent? Read John 8:44, what does this say about our adversary, the devil? We all have experienced Satan's judgment against us. He is the accuser of the brethren and readily calls to our attention incidents of failure and weakness. Now read 1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:12, and Roman 8:1. According to these verses, when we are reminded of our failings, what are we to do? (confess, agree, acknowledge them) What will God "do with" them? (forget them) The end result will be what? (forgiven).

Now read 1 John 2:2 and 4:10 according to these verses what has Jesus done on our behalf? (He has made the atoning sacrifice on behalf of all who place their trust in Him) Brainstorm ... as individuals, how can we "remind ourselves of Jesus"... beyond breaking the bread and drinking from the cup of communion ... and manifest that remembrance of Him? Discuss what might be appropriate as a group Descanso. Make plans to develop it.

Bringing the session to a close:

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Ask each one to pray silently, and then you, facilitator, close the time of silence with prayer for the Lord's Supper and lead the group in partaking of it.

We have suggested the following previously, but this would be an ideal time to ask you again. Think of someone, still living, who has impacted you in your sojourn as a Christ follower. 1. Pray for them and express to our Lord your gratefulness for their impact. 2. In some form, ideally in person face to face or via telephone, contact them and share specifically how they have impacted you. 3. Purpose to "pay their impact forward" into someone else's life.

Here is a brief commentary on condemnation vs. conviction of sin. In this session the group discussed condemnation. The Holy Spirit 'convicts' us of our sins (John 16:7-10) as a prelude to our confession of them. The devil's condemnation is like a shotgun blast. It blows us away, tears us down, and ultimately defeats and destroys us. The Spirit's 'conviction' on the other hand is like an arrow. It may sting, but it hits exactly the sin, is specific, and He also empowers us to overcome it and ultimately builds us up and strengthens us.

Thank you for facilitating your Devoted group. Please know you are loved and are being prayed for. We would appreciate a bit of feedback on how it is going. Let us know, please.

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*GIVE IN ^{TO} THE LOVE
OF YOUR LIFE.*