

Small Group Guide

ONE LIFE WITH A GLOBAL GOSPEL

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

November 15, 2009

Galatians 6:14

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Inform learners that David quoted James Truslow Adams, a man who first coined the phrase "The American Dream." Adams described it as a dream "in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of what they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are."

Ask: How does the ending "and be recognized by others for what they are" throw this statement into a life not devoted to honoring God? Encourage learners to discuss their answers. Explain that today we will look at how the American Dream contradicts a life focused on the Gospel.

Option 2

Invite learners to share their answers to the following question: If money were no issue, what would you be doing with your life? Encourage learners to describe how the American Dream affects our view of success.

Explain that today we will take a look at how this idea of success contradicts God's view of success.

Review the Message . . .

A New Dream...

- The American Dream...
 - Trust in yourself.
 - Make much of yourself.
- A Gospel Dream...
 - Crucify yourself.
 - Make much of God.

Discussion

- Enlist a learner to read Galatians 6:13-14.

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- Explain that Paul was writing to the Church at Galatia contradicting the false teachings they had received concerning the Jewish practice of circumcision. Paul taught that they did not need to be circumcised to follow Christ.
- What did Paul say would be the source of boasting if salvation were placed on the act of circumcision?
- Why did Paul state that Christ alone should be the recipient of boasting?
- How did Paul describe his relationship to the world? What did this description indicate about his purpose in life?
- Read John 15:5.
- What is the outcome in attempting to live apart from Christ?

Application . . .

- Who is the object of the American Dream? How does this object drive the purpose of living?
- Who is the object of the Gospel? How does this object drive the purpose of living?
- Explain that the following discussion surrounds the challenge from Dr. Platt for a practical application of living for the Gospel Dream.

A Radical Experiment...

- To _____ pray _____ for the entire _____ world _____.
- To _____ read _____ through the entire _____ Word _____.
 - As an _____ individual _____ ...
 - As a _____ family _____ ...
 - As a _____ faith family _____ ...
- To sacrifice our _____ money _____ for a specific _____ purpose _____.
 - _____ Set a cap _____ on our lifestyles.
 - _____ Spend _____ our money for the sake of urgent spiritual and physical need around the world.
- To spend our _____ time _____ in another _____ context _____.
 - _____ 98 _____ % of our time spreading the Gospel throughout Birmingham.
 - _____ 2 _____ % of our time spreading the Gospel beyond Birmingham.
- To commit our _____ lives _____ to a multiplying _____ community _____.
 - A commitment to the _____ local church _____ ...
 - A commitment to a _____ small group _____ ...

Discussion

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- Enlist a learner to read Matthew 9:37-38.
- How did Christ instruct us to pray for the lost in the world?
- Read Ephesians 6:12-17.
- If Christ-followers are, indeed, in a serious battle with the adversary, how does the Word of God affect our lives?
- Enlist a learner to read James 2:14-17. How does James indicate a way that our faith is to reveal itself?
- Read Acts 1:8. Where does Jesus command His disciples to be about making disciples?
- Explain that the New Testament Church is continually noted as the body of Christ. How does this analogy indicate that Christ-followers are to interact with one another?

Application . . .

- How can we intentionally pray for the peoples of the world?
- Remind learners that *Operation World* is a resource book that can be purchased or used freely online (www.operationworld.org) that offers a plan to pray for all of the countries of the world in a year.
- How much more time do we spend reading the devotional words and thoughts of others rather than the words of God?
- How can we intentionally designate time and energy to spending time in the Bible by ourselves and with our family and/or close friends?
- Do we often compartmentalize family time and time at church? How important is it that our families spend time worshipping God together in our homes?
- What does our struggle with denying ourselves luxuries so that we can provide for others reveal about our hearts and our priorities?
- Why do we feel that we deserve to live luxuriously? Why do we feel that anyone deserves to live luxuriously?
- What if living comfortably is not God's purpose for our lives? How does that change the way we think and live?
- How can this challenge look realistically different in each of our lives?
- Why does God's sovereignty have you living in Birmingham? How does His commission affect the way that you interact with this city?
- How does God's commission command that you impact other places as well?
- What does our commitment level to a local church reveal about our priorities for living in community?
- How can a small group strengthen and multiply efforts for making disciples of all nations?
- Why do we often resist community? How do we all need community in our lives?
- How can we make community a priority in our lives? How can we intentionally invest in the lives of others?

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A Continual Prayer...

O God, help us to _____ die _____ to the ways of the world
so that we might _____ live _____ for Your glory throughout the world.

Application . . .

- Encourage learners to pray through this challenge this week as they contemplate how this challenge would practically look like in their lives.