

TENSIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS

GROUP LEADER GUIDE: WEEK EIGHT

STRENGTH

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your **strength.** The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these. - **Mark 12:30-31**

The power of practicing your faith

Read these verses and discuss the importance of doing what Jesus commands based on each one.

Matthew 5:19

Matthew 7:21-23

Matthew 7:24-27

Being fruitful

Read the following verses.

John 15:8, 16

Luke 6:43-45

Galatians 5:22-25

Why is it important to live a fruitful life as a follower of Jesus Christ?

The Christian Job Description.

I have always found it interesting how most people who follow Jesus and call themselves Christians don't know what they should do. It is as though they were never given a job description for their new occupation.

Read the attached Job Description as a group, then circle one or two things you would like to work on most. Then share them as a group and commit to pray at least once for each other in the coming week. Pray they will practice DOING them.

KEY VERSES

The Golden Rule

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 7:12



Scheduling

In what way does your weekly schedule need to be more like His and why?

How does what Jesus want you to do differ from what the world tells you to do?

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Closing Prayer Activity

The following prayer was adapted from 2 Peter 1:5-11. Divide it according to the number of people in your group and close by praying through it.

Father, because of your Holy Spirit in our life and its divine nature and power, I pray we will do our best this week to see to it that our faith carries with it a real goodness in our lives.

And I pray our goodness will be accompanied by knowledge, and our knowledge will add self control, and to our self control we would show perseverance and the ability to endure.

And to perseverance, I pray we will elevate your work in our life through godliness. To godliness, I pray we will show each other mutual affection and Christlike love.

I pray these qualities will exist in us this week and continue to grow. I pray we will be effective and productive in our Christian lives and not complacent. That we will grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Keep us from being short-sighted and blind to why we have been forgiven for our sins and cleansed. Help us to focus on our new life this week and not be distracted by the world and its distractions.

Heavenly Father, we want to make every effort to confirm the calling you have for us and acknowledge you have chosen us.

Father, strengthen us to do these things, we know they will keep us from stumbling and if we live with this sort of life you will give us a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen

CHRISTIAN JOB DESCRIPTION

Position:

A disciple will be a student and follower of Jesus Christ. This is his or her vocation. To live like Jesus in this world. This is a full-time position devoted to loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Following Jesus will take great sacrifice and self-denial. A disciple will be committed to grow in their spiritual life to a place of maturity, following others who follow Christ, showing devotion to the church, holding firmly to The Word of God, and helping others as a messenger of the hope and Good News we have through Jesus Christ.

(1 John 4:17, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 16:24, 1 Peter 2:2-3, Ephesians 4:13, 1 Corinthians 11:1, Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Corinthians 15:2, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8)

Essential Requirements:

- Saved by The Gospel. *(1 Corinthians 15:1-2)*
- Personal Confession of Jesus Christ as your Lord. *(Romans 10:9-10)*
- Indwelt with and gifted by the Holy Spirit. *(Romans 12:6-8)*
- Living in a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ's reconciliation. *(2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 5:10)*

Standards and Expectations in following Jesus (*Romans 14:7-8*):

- Loving one another. *(John 13:34)* - how you behave to each other - "one another's"
- To become an example to follow as you follow others examples. *(1 Corinthians 11:1)*
- Baptism *(Acts 2:36-41)*
- Generosity. To begin giving a tithe of 10% or more as a love offering to the church (God's people), and showing compassion and charity to others. *(Proverbs 3:9, Malachi 3:8-10, Leviticus 27:30-40, Luke 11:42)*
- Sharing the Good News of reconciliation with others. *(Romans 1:16-17, 2 Corinthians 4:13-15, 5:16-21)*
- Prayer. *(Ephesians 6:18)*
- To have a desire and hunger for spiritual things. *(1 Peter 2:2-3)*
- Be committed and faithful to the church. *(Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 2:42-47)*
- Serve Him as an ambassador not a volunteer. *(John 12:26, 2 Corinthians 5:20)*
- Have a daily desire to worship and glorify God by doing his work on earth. *(Colossians 3)*

Education:

- A continuing education in The Word of God. *(1 Peter 1:23, 4:11, Psalm 119)*
- Regularly learning under those God has gifted in the local church. *(Ephesians 4:11-13)*

Operational Management of Life:

- Able to put on Christ through obedience to His commands *(Colossians 3:9-10)*
- Daily integration of beliefs into whatever situation you are in. *(1 Corinthians 7:17)*
- Living a peaceful and quiet life. *(1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, 1 Timothy 2:2-3)*
- Ability to develop a Christian Worldview. *(Romans 12:1-6)*