

Small Group Study

Desperate Hope: Strength in Weakness

Events Coming Up

Encounter God: Friday, April 9th (6:30-9pm) and Saturday, April 10th (8am-1pm). A weekend retreat that provides an opportunity for intense spiritual growth. The goal is to experience the freedom that God has made available to believers. Freedom from guilt, freedom from sin, freedom from hurts, freedom from 'strongholds' - those areas of our lives that have not yet been brought under the Lordship of Christ. Sign up online at vineyardkcnorth.com or by calling the church at 816.734.8100.

Learning to Minister Like Jesus: Friday, April 16th (6:30-9pm), Saturday, April 17th (8:30am-1pm). This class will provide an overview of several of the basic values held by the Vineyard movement. Topics include healing prayer, the revelatory gifts of the Spirit, the Kingdom of God, and spiritual warfare. You will come away, not only having learned concepts and ideas, but you will also get the opportunity to start "doing the stuff!" Sign up online at vineyardkcnorth.com or by calling the church at 816.734.8100.

Ice Breakers

Use the questions below to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. What is one sport, game, or activity in which you are strongest? Weakest?
2. Share with the group one time in which you really hurt yourself physically. What happened?
3. What are your favorite vegetables? What are your favorite fruits?

Questions

Please feel free to adjust this study to fit your group's needs and to listen to the direction of the Holy Spirit. It is not necessary to use all of the questions.

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:5-10. How did God help Paul to maintain an appropriate level of humility? How has God helped you to maintain an appropriate level of humility?
2. What are some examples in the Bible of God choosing the weak over the strong?
3. For what purposes did Paul's "thorn" serve in his life?
4. What are the "thorns" in *your* life and what is your view toward them? Have they led you to experience the truth of v. 9?
5. Reflect on the words: "My grace is sufficient for you." How deep has this truth taken root in your life? How will this truth give you strength in the midst of experiencing "weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties?"
6. How can shame keep our weaknesses hidden and empower our brokenness? What's the answer to this?
7. How can we "build community around our weaknesses?" How can the cross bring us healing and hope and strength?