

Life Group Leader Notes

January 5, 2025

Following Jesus

In the church today, it is a time of:

- Heresy: opinions contrary to God's truths.
- Apostasy: renouncing (rejecting) the truth.

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. Jude 1:3

- Falling Away: falling away from the truth and falling away from the church. Jesus loves His church, He died for His church, and He is coming back for His church. He has brought us together in communion. Learn to love the church.

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God. Psalm 92: 13

Discussion: Do you feel planted in the church?

In these last days, we must keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12: 1

Discussion: What are 2 obstacles that hinder and entangle you in your race?

Why?

Discussion: What have you discovered that helps you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus?

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. Acts 10: 38

Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power to release those who are bound. John The Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus. He said:

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Matthew 3:11

Discussion: Who has been a John the Baptist in your life? How did she or he prepare you to meet Jesus?

Discussion: Where does repentance to God and/or others still need to happen in your life?

After Jesus' baptism, He was driven into the desert. Jesus showed that as a man, we can have power over the devil. Jesus overcame by the Word of God. When we declare the Word of God, we are using the sword of the spirit.

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days, He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' " Luke 4: 1-4

Discussion: Do you use scripture to overcome?

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me, to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4: 18-19

Jesus wants to make us whole. He wants to liberate us so we can do what He has called us to do. Our wounds hold us back from fulfilling the purposes of God in our lives.

So, Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." John 20: 21

Jesus is sending us by His spirit to heal the broken hearted and set the captives free.

Discussion: Where could you use Jesus' "peace" right now: In some relationship? In some inner fear? In your work?

Let God Use You...Expect Great Things this Year!