

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Celebration - Week of October 19

Opening

Do you ever feel distracted? How can distractions become dangerous? Life is filled with distractions. In our big family, it seems distractions are the daily mode of operation. Some of us in the family handle distractions better than others of us, but I am learning if I don't tend to some of the more critical distractions at hand, they can catapult into chaos if unattended. It is hard to stay focused, and much of the time I find myself trying to step back and see the bigger picture and press through the distractions with grace. This takes practice and discipline. In my quieter moments, I often wonder if 'keeping us distracted' is not one of the craftiest strategies of the enemy; for the devil is skilled at luring God's children off mission.

The apostle Paul speaks to such issues with Timothy, his son-in-the-faith, while Timothy was trying to pastor the church in Ephesus. Paul had left for Macedonian but had appointed young Timothy to stay and stop those whose teachings were contrary to the truth. Paul wanted believers in Ephesus to be one is spirit, focused on the greater mission of spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ... not wasting time with meaningless discussions having to do with spiritual pedigree, mythology, speculation, or 'deceptive teachings that come from demons' (1 Timothy 4:1). Paul says it's time to *re-focus* and give your complete attention to things that really matter. A good word for all of us.

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-7, 15-17

What are the distractions that Paul mentions that we should avoid? These are mentioned in Sunday's message outline.

1. Share how the metaphor of the blank sheet of paper has impact in not only distracting us but also sucking the energy out of the room when it comes to:
 - a. Relationships—Saying to a friend, family member this is our plan for the next three to six months while the page is blank?

- b. In business when you lift up a blank sheet of paper and say this is what we are doing over the next six to twelve months, yet the page is bare. How does that impact the workplace and fellow employees?
 - c. How does it impact a marriage when we have no plan, no personal vision for where our marriage or relationship is going? How could we improve?

Read the Power Point: Clarity of Vision and Purpose gives energy to people while aimless chatter and ambiguity leaves us drained and adds to hopelessness, anxiety, and needless stress in our lives.

How has this been true in your experience?

2. Discuss the distraction of people desiring fame over faithfulness.
 - a. We all want our lives to matter, we desire significance. We want to be known by others. However, is our primary goal to be well-known or to make Jesus known?
 - b. Discuss ways that we can make Jesus more known.

Paul tells us clearly what Heaven Celebrates. Discuss what Jesus came to earth to accomplish. How can you and I participate in helping others know Christ?

Vision 2:28 is the largest Spiritual Campaign Christ Church has experienced. It comes from Joel 2:28 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams."

Goals for Vision 2:28

- Plant 10 New Churches in the next three years, one located in the Unifour Area.
- Doubling Life Groups to over 100
- Double baptisms and people joining the Christ Church family.
- Increase worship attendance by 25%

To Accomplish These Goals We Need To

- Raise 5 Million Dollars through Sacrificial Giving over three years asking each worshipper to give the largest gift they've ever given any organization.
- First Million goes to build new 11,700 sq. ft. worship and daycare center for the Lincoln Campus. Cost is \$2,840,000.
- Debt Reduction by \$3.5 million over next three years will take our \$6.5 million debt down to \$1.8 million to leave more money for mission and ministry.

Write down and share your three goals—Blank Sheet was handed out Sunday with these

1. What are your **Dreams**?
2. What is your **Personal Vision**?
3. How will you do your part so **Vision 2:28** can be a reality? We are seeking 100% participation. Can you commit to praying for your sacrificial gift over 3 years?

Closing: Name one dream or personal vision you have and how the group can pray for you. Lastly, pray for Vision 2:28 and for each worshipper of Christ Church's participation. Remember, it's not equal gifts but equal sacrifice.

One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

October 19: Jeremiah 33:1-34:22, 1 Timothy 4:1-16, Psalm 89:1-13, Proverbs 25:23-24
October 20: Jeremiah 35:1-36:32, 1 Timothy 5:1-25, Psalm 89:14-37, Proverbs 25:25-27
October 21: Jeremiah 37:1-38:28, 1 Timothy 6:1-21, Psalm 89:38-52, Proverbs 25:28
October 22: Jeremiah 39:1-41:18, 2 Timothy 1:1-18, Psalm 90:1-91:16, Proverbs 26:1-2
October 23: Jeremiah 42:1-44:23, 2 Timothy 2:1-21, Psalm 92:1-93:5, Proverbs 26:3-5
October 24: Jeremiah 44:24-47:7, 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17, Psalm 94:1-23, Proverbs 26:6-8
October 25: Jeremiah 48:1-49:22, 2 Timothy 4:1-22, Psalm 95:1-96:13, Proverbs 26:9-12

CELEBRATION

Text: 1 Timothy 1:3-7, 15-17

What Heaven Doesn't Celebrate:

- 1) "Endless _____"
- 2) "They want to be _____"

Power Point:

Clarity of Vision and Purpose gives energy to people while aimless chatter and ambiguity leaves us drained and adds to hopelessness, anxiety and needless stress in our lives!

What Heaven Celebrates:

- 1) "Christ Jesus came into the world to _____"

"Commitment Sunday for Vision 2:28 is November 23rd"

October 19, 2025