LIFE GROUP LESSON

Now More than Ever - Week of August 10

Introduction—

For many of us, when something breaks down, the first thing we do is go to a tutorial on how to fix it. We want to learn from someone who has faced the same problem, made the same mistakes, but overcame the challenge. Yet, why is it we are reluctant to ask for help when it comes to our hurts, habits, and hang-ups? In chapter ten of the first letter to the church in Corinth, the apostle Paul recounts Israel's rebellious history in the wilderness: "These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age" (1 Corinthians 10:11). Paul wants Christians who think their faith is somehow 'superior' to acknowledge they are no more special than anyone else. In fact, their pride will cause them to fall, if they refuse to learn from Israel's mistakes.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

God did not tolerate idolatry, sexual immorality, putting Christ to the test, or grumbling back then... and God will not tolerate it now. Like the church in Corinth, many of us may be allowing secret sins to become strongholds. We think: 'I got this. I can fix this. I don't need to be part of an accountability group, share group at CR or a Life Group. I'm good.' Well, honestly, no, you're not good. Neither am I. We all need healing. That is why our second core value at Christ Church is represented by the H of the acronym C-H-R-I-S-T —

H – Healing happens best in need based ministries and Life Groups.

Paul begins: "I don't want you to forget ... about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses. All of them ate the same spiritual food, and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ." (vv1-4).

When *ELOHIM* walks with us, he expects us (1) to follow the leader he has appointed and anointed *and* (2) walk in holiness. Why? Because Christ is with us! Walking in holiness does not mean puffed up with pride nor does it mean never making mistakes. Walking in holiness – in the light of God's presence and in holiness of heart – means acknowledging that the LORD is God and we are not. It means surrendering daily to his purpose and utilizing the gifts and talents he has given us for HIS glory and honor (not self-promotion).

Discussion:

- Have you confessed your need for the Lord today?
- Do you daily resolve in your heart to honor the Lord by loving your neighbor?

One of the most misquoted expressions uttered by John Wesley is this: "There is no holiness apart from social holiness." Many have taken this to mean being holy requires taking up social justice issues. While John Wesley did speak often of the importance of 'works of mercy' and spending time with the poor and the infirm, the expression – there is no holiness apart from social holiness – refers to the holiness that comes from doing life together... in Christian community. And yes, with regular accountability that foster both works of piety and works of mercy, a healthy Life Group will serve others in Christ's name.

- Share thoughts regarding regular accountability? How is honest accountability crucial for spiritual growth and staying on-path?
- What do you put before God? Name the idols (or potential idols). Is there any area of your life that you are keeping in the dark?

Read together the **Plain Truth**:

Small groups provide the best place for confession and without confession there is no healing.

 When it comes to walking in a new direction, God's direction, what does James 5:16 and Romans 12:1-5 say about confession and changing the way we think? • What word of encouragement do you hear in 1 Corinthians 10:12-13?

In Closing

Read together **Steps 4 and 5** from Celebrate Recovery:

Step 4 – Make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.

Step 5 – Admit to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Share together **Principle 4** from Celebrate Recovery:

Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.

One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

August 10: Ezra 10:1-44, 1 Corinthians 6:1-20, Psalm 31:9-18, Proverbs 21:3
August 11: Nehemiah 1:1-3:14, 1 Corinthians 7:1-24, Psalm 31:19-24, Proverbs 21:4
August 12: Nehemiah 3:15-5:13, 1 Corinthians 7:25-40, Psalm 32:1-11, Proverbs 21:5-7
August 13: Nehemiah 5:14-7:73, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Psalm 33:1-11, Proverbs 21:8-10
August 14: Nehemiah 7:73-9:21, 1 Corinthians 9:1-18, Psalm 33:12-22, Prov. 21:11-12
August 15: Nehemiah 9:22-10:39, 1 Corinthians 9:19-10:13, Psalm 34:1-10, Prov. 21:13
August 16: Nehemiah 11:1-12:26, 1 Corinthians 10:14-33, Ps. 34:11-22, Prov. 21:14-16

Now More Than Ever

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, 33

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PLAINTRUTH

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