

WEEK EIGHT, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapter 6, "Learn: Mining for Gold" *Growing Up*

This is a significant chapter. Its content will stretch you and the people in your group.

I'm going to state this as clearly and emphatically as I can,

WE HAVE ONE TEXTBOOK, THE BIBLE.

I am grateful for every book we study in our disciple making process. I had a voice in choosing each book. I'm grateful for the authors, the hundreds of hours they have invested in order to state godly truth clearly and practically, and for the wisdom represented. However, there is only one Book that is without error. There is only one Book that holds the promise to "make one wise unto salvation." There is only one Book that holds the promise of "transformation by the renewing of your mind." That Book, is of course, the Bible.

One of the essentials of being a disciple is getting in the Word of God and getting It into you. Jesus declared, "If you continue in My Word then you are truly disciples of Mine and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32). You cannot be a disciple of Jesus without having a living, abiding relationship with the Word of God.

Okay, here's where "the rubber meets the road." Everyone in a good, Bible preaching church has heard the statements above. The questions are "Do we live that out? If so, how?"

We will spend two weeks seeking to grasp the reality of getting into the Word, week 8, and also week 11 when we study Chapter 10, *H.E.A.R.ing from God*. The weeks in between Chapter 6 and Chapter 10 will give us the opportunity to build a wonderful discipline-- journaling our reflections on the word of God. *What I'd like for you to do is to lead your folks to begin (if they have not already been doing so) to WRITE DOWN WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO THEM FROM HIS WORD.*

Robby gives us a lot of important insights on how to correctly interpret the Word of God in

Chapter 6. In Chapter 10, he gives us an excellent tool to follow in his H.E.A.R Bible study method. If you and your group would like to utilize that H.E.A.R model, it's one that I believe holds great value! However, in order to make our time in the Word as simple as possible (especially for those who have never written down their insights) I'd also like to offer you a simpler one:

- What does the passage say? (What is God saying?)
- What does the passage say to me? (How does what God is saying **apply** personally to me?)

You can utilize this model with any passage you read (I'd encourage your group to all be on one Bible reading plan—*such as* the One Year Bible). I'd encourage them to aim for writing their reflections at least four days a week—for many, this will be a brand new discipline. The length can be as short or long as they choose—they are doing this to **hear from God**, not impress anyone. Give everyone time to share one or two of their reflections with the group as you come together between chapters 6 and 10.

This discipline is designed to record individual's **insights**. This is the **personal** understanding that the **Spirit of God** gives to a person. We are not writing them down simply for the discipline of writing; we are writing them down because they are essential to your spiritual life and were given **to you by God through His Holy Word and the Holy Spirit**.

The following questions are given to aid you as you lead the discussion this week and apply the truths from Chapter 6. It is not imperative for you to use these questions or to cover all of them.

- You will want to make sure and give quality time (especially this week and in these upcoming weeks) for each person to share what God is saying to them from His Word.
- The writer of Hebrews declares, "The Word of God is **living** and active . . ." (Hebrews 4:12). Hopefully you have an intimate relationship with your spouse, or a very close

friend. You don't talk **to** one another; you talk **with** one another. In the same way, we have a relationship with God through His Word.

On a scale of 1-10, (with 10 being the highest) please rate your relationship with the Word of God. Do that by answering questions **such as:** Does the Word of God speak personally and clearly to you? Do you listen? Do you listen **carefully**? Do you obey instantly and completely what it says? Do you **anticipate** time in the Word—as you would anticipate time with your spouse or a close friend? Would those closest to you agree with your summarization of your score, or would they be surprised? What have you learned to do in order to get the most benefit and joy from your relationship with the Word of God?

- Robby writes, “A few primary skills will enable you to discern—with the Holy Spirit’s help—what God means in His Word and how it applies to your life” (Page 88). **Are you willing to put forth energy to obtain some new skills to enable yourself to clearly and personally hear from God?**
- We learn from Robby that there is a simple rule of biblical interpretation. “There is one interpretation, many applications” (Page 88). **How often do you finish your Bible reading time with a personal, practical application?**
- Rick Jones, the Manager of Bellevue’s bookstore—and a theologically astute man—passed these wise words on to me recently:
“Reading the Bible is good. Studying the Bible is better. Living the Bible is best. You won’t live the Bible unless you study the Bible and you won’t study the Bible unless you read the Bible.”

Our verse next week is John 14:15.