

Vineyard Crossroads Church

Sunday, August 22, 2010

Reef's Notes

Finding our Story – *Entering God's Story*

a journey back to God

Bible Text: 1Samuel 29, 30

Introduction – *returning to our first love*

Divine intervention – how God rescues

- there are always consequences for compromise
- God is sovereign – he is bigger than our failures
- God will use your past against you!
- God will burn your Ziklags
- God can recover and restore everything

How to return to God

- repent
- re-engage your hidden, inner life with Christ
- seek God regularly for guidance
- put action to your faith

Conclusion – *love, obedience, and doing what the Father is doing*

Devotional Life Worksheet

August 22-28, 2010

Finding our Story – Entering God’s Story

a journey back to God

Bible Text: 1Samuel 29,30

This worksheet is designed to help you in your personal study and individual reflection, and for small group discussion and comment.

Devotion #1 – Today read and reflect on Revelation 2:4-5 – some of Jesus’ words to the church in Ephesus. What does it mean to “forsake your first love?” Do you feel like you have left or lost your first love for Jesus Christ? If so, spend time today and this week remembering – remember the times when love for God was on fire in your heart. Repent – turn back to God with all your heart; ask the Holy Spirit to help you do this. Do the works of love that you did at the beginning of your Jesus journey. What were those works of love?

Devotion #2 – Read 1st Samuel 27, 29, and 30. These chapters tell the story of what happened to David when he quit trusting God, took matters into his own hands, and ended up in a partnership with one of Israel’s enemies – the Philistines. What are some of the consequences David experienced because of his compromise? Think of a time – past or present – where you have compromised your faith in some area of your Jesus journey. If you can, share it with your small group or some trusted Christian friends. What were the consequences for you compromising? How do the “consequences of compromise” point to the sovereignty of God?

Devotion #3 – Do you find yourself presently needing to return to God? Have you strayed from his will for your life and find yourself lost somewhere in the land of disobedience and compromise? Do you feel distant or numb in your heart towards Jesus Christ? Have you sensed God’s divine intervention in your life, calling you back into close, intimate, personal relationship with him? What “Ziklags” need to be burned (crutches or props that you are leaning on – instead of leaning on God)? What would a passion for Jesus look like right now in your life? What would repentance specifically mean for you right now?

Devotion #4 – In Saul’s darkest hour, he sought the advice of a witch (see 1st Samuel chapter 28.) In David’s darkest hour, he repented and turned his heart and his life back to God and obedience to God. David inquired of the Lord – seeking God’s specific direction for his circumstances. How is your hidden, inner life with Christ right now? What things are you doing to nurture and sustain ongoing, close relationship with God? Are you regularly seeking God for his guidance in your life? Give an example. What specific thing do you sense God calling you to put action to your faith in right now? Submit these things to God in prayer; share them with your small group; do them.

Devotion #5 – Today read and reflect on John 5:19 where Jesus talks about only doing what he sees his Father doing. Our journey “back to God” does not end once we have repented and opened our heart back to him again, and done away with the substitutes for faith in our life. Regular love, obedience, and faith in action; developing the hidden life – these are part of the journey forward. In prayer today, ask the Father to show you what he is doing – in your life, your family, your job, your circumstances, your world. Then ask the Father to show you how to “do what he is doing.” Share your experience with your small group.