

Small Group Study Guide

Turn Around Faith | From Sunday March 1, 2020

Appetizer:

Question: *What do you collect?* Phil collects hymnals. What is your collection (if you have one), or if you were to start collecting anything, what might it be?

Christians will all agree that obeying the Great Commission (GO and MAKE Disciples) is important, but some might find it hard to think of it as our 'duty' (as found in the hymn "Rescue the Perishing").

QUESTION: The Church puts much effort into the MAKING of disciples, but we've typically not done great at GOING. *What are some reasons for why that might be?*

Main Course:

In Luke 5, we read of the story of the paralyzed man being lowered from the roof to be healed by Jesus.

QUESTION: *Why did the friends of the paralyzed man resort to such drastic measures?*

QUESTION: *Because of the Pharisees "holy huddle", what simple phrase can we take from this story to warn us not to become "insider-focussed"? (Hint – it's the same phrase Jesus gave to the fishermen who had no catch after an evening of fishing)*

Provide a theological explanation for the song "Reckless Love" from the Parable of the Lost Sheep found in Matt 18. *Why should we defend the use of the word "reckless" and not change it to "patient"?*

QUESTION: *What is the message behind the parable of the Lost Sheep?*

Fill in the blank: In regards to God's Mission for His Church, it is more important to focus our efforts on those we're trying to _____ than those we're trying to _____.

QUESTION: *How can we "turn around" as a Church, and what aspects of our church life will this impact?*

How can we "turn around" as a Christ-follower, and what aspects of the way we live outside the walls of our church might that impact?

Phil proposed 3 ways that we can respond:

- a. That Christians be known more for what we stand FOR rather than just what we are AGAINST. Jesus was not a protestor. He was an ambassador of God's love.
- b. We re-evaluate our relationships. How many meaningful relationships do we have with non-Christians, or are all of our friends Christian?
- c. Find our courage again. The infilling of the Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses.

DISCUSS.

Dessert:

CHALLENGE: Pastor Jeff's challenge to our congregation in his January Vision Cast sermon was "to re-ignite an ' _____ Culture' once again in the ministries of our Church."

The BIG IDEA of the message was: "**God empowers those who lives His mission, not just those who love His meetings.**"

We are not empowered to go to church. We are empowered to go into the world.

DISCUSS.