SMALL GROUP

BIBLE DISCUSSION

TOPIC: MOVE FORWARD

FOR THE WEEK OF

FEBRUARY 2, 2014

Lesson in a Line:

In order to move forward, we cannot allow our past to out pull our future. The pull of the future must be greater than the pull of the past.

Points to Make:

- In 1 Corinthians, Paul admonishes the New Testament Church Israelites, who are an example for us.
  - None was better than the other. They were all equally privileged. The Lord loved them all the same.
  - They were all part of the same church, if you will. They saw and experienced the same miracles, the same deliverance.
- They were of one Lord, One faith, and one baptism -They had a common enemy, and they had the same promise.
- They were a lot like us!
- Remember they were a chosen people, set aside by God.
- The Lord delivered them from over 400 years of Egyptian captivity, and was leading them into the Promised Land - a land described as flowing with milk and honey. Everything would be provided. They would prosper. They would thrive. It was a land of beauty. A land of unfathomable abundance.
- Despite their great deliverance and the promise that lay ahead, many would never make it out of the wilderness.
- Many of God's people shared a glaring fault that cancelled all of the advantages that they were afforded, all of the blessings they had been given. It was their ultimate demise, and it was this: **They allowed their past to out pull their future!**
- We are often so willing to give God our past, but we should be just as willing to completely surrender our future.
- Once delivered from their past, the Israelites could not seem to grasp the vision of their future, and began to revert to their past.
- They began to adopt some of the very same values of the land they were delivered from! They worshiped idols, and they were destroyed.
- **Paul warns us that in the last days, the days we live in, the tragic plight of the Israelites, could very well be ours.**
- Living for God is not always easy. Some days, it's downright hard, Sometimes the Lord leads us in what seems to be the long way, because He knows what we are prone to...
- Many times, as children of God, we may tempted to go back to a life of sin, because it seems easier. When What is before us presents daunting challenges, the child of God might find him/herself retreating to the familiarity of an old situation, relationship or habit.

Key Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 10:1-11; Exodus 13:17-18; Luke 9:62; Isaiah 43:15-19

- Let us not be deceived. The devil is not our friend. Sin is not our friend. The past that we so badly needed deliverance from hasn't gotten any better since we left it.
- If we're going to make it to heaven:
  - The pull of holiness must be greater than the pull of worldliness
  - The pull of the spirit must be greater than the pull flesh. The pull of deception. The pull of pride.
  - The pull of truth must be greater than the pull of deception. The pull of pride.
  - The pull of humility must be greater than the pull of pride.
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  - The pull of humility must be greater than the pull of pride.
  - The pull to please God must be greater than the pull to please man.
  - The pull of the future must be greater than the pull of the past!
- ***We. Must. Move. Forward!***
- Jesus surrendered His future on earth so that EVERYONE could have a future in heaven. When Jesus' body was lifted up on the cross of Calvary, He began to draw us all unto Himself. He still draws us today. Always pulling us - pulling us out of our past and into a glorious future.

Discussion Tools

- What are some disadvantages of holding on to tightly to the past? What can we gain by embracing the future?
- In this the year of "Joyful Sacrifice", are we willing to sacrifice our past? More so, are we willing to sacrifice control of our future?
  What can we gain by embracing the future? What can hold us back from doing so?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, forgive me for looking back, and help me focus on my future with You.

Ice-breaker: What are some childhood ambitions that you have yet to fulfill?

NOTES