

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

For May 2, 2021 sermon:

1 Corinthians: "Maturity and immaturity contrasted"

Warm up: (Questions for discussion)

What is one of your favorite childhood memories?

How are you at gardening? Do you have a "green thumb" or a "brown thumb"?

Do you know what your primary spiritual gift is? How do you know?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. Share with each other what YOU think the traits of a "mature Christian" are. Then look at and discuss the following passages that talk about the warnings in Scripture about refusing to grow and mature in your faith:

1 Corinthians 14:20 Ephesians 4:13-15 Ephesians 4:21-23 Hebrews 5:12-14

2. You are both a garden (or at least a plant in a garden) and an apprentice gardener with a role to play in helping others grow spiritually. As Paul talks about HIS role in the lives of the believers in Corinth, he identifies himself as the seed planter and Apollos as the water boy. He makes it clear that neither of them are worth having sides chosen and fights break out over their roles. God and God alone makes spiritual life happen and He alone gets the glory. Read and discuss these passages on how we really grow:

2 Peter 3:18 Philippians 1:6 Colossians 1:9-10 2 Peter 1:5-8 James 1:2-4

3. We should have a proper understanding and even a "reverent fear" of the judgements of a Holy God. A true Christ-follower will not be judged for their sins, Jesus himself took that judgment on the cross, but we will face a review of our works/faithfulness. This is called the "Bema seat" judgment, named after the seat a judge would occupy for a 1st Century athletic contest. Their judgement was not "live or die", it was "winners and losers". This is a fairly simplistic explanation but you get the idea. Some of the things we might be judged on are how well we obeyed the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), how victorious we were over sin (Romans 6:1-4), and how well we controlled our tongues (James 3:1-9). Discuss: Have you ever considered Jesus' review of your life? How does this make you feel? What should you do?

Apply it: (10 minutes)

Olivet is striving for a renewed focus on and passion for discipleship. This is the heartbeat of the Good News about Jesus...not just that people would be "saved from hell", but that they would know Jesus and grow in their faith and become a passionate and capable witness of how amazing Jesus truly is. This small group that you are a part of is a very important part of that process. In closing, discuss how we (Olivet) could do a better job of encouraging you and building you up in your faith. Leaders: Report back to the staff on this!