

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

For May 9, 2021 sermon:

***1 Corinthians: "The character traits of a difference-maker"***

**Warm up:** (Questions for discussion)

Sunday is/was Mother's Day. What's the best M. D. gift you ever gave/got?

How do you normally handle anger? Blow up? Shut down? Other?

How good of a judge do you think you are of your own maturity and motives?

**Digging deeper:** (20-30 minutes)

1. It would not be correct to say that the attitude of many in the Corinthian church toward him "didn't bother him"...he is obviously hurt and upset over it...yet he minimizes their negative judgments by pointing to the only opinion that ultimately matters- what God thinks about him and his efforts. How should we handle people's opinions of us versus God's perfect knowledge?

Psalm 118:8-9    Psalm 139:1-6, 16-18    Romans 5:6-11    John 2:23-25

2. When we pray for those we care about, we pray for God's blessings and protection in their life. We don't want them (or ourselves) to go through rejection, hardship or pain...and yet we are not promised an easy life as we follow Jesus. Read the following passages and discuss their warnings and encouragement.

James 1:2-4    1 Peter 4:12-14    Romans 8:35-39    2 Corinthians 1:3-4

3. Do you know what a "compartmentalized" life is? It is when we take the different parts of our life (our relationship with God, our work, education, free time, thought life, sex life, hobbies, human relationships, etc.) and act as though they can be kept separate (isolated) from each other. It is especially wrong and dangerous when we act as though it is okay to not allow our relationship with Jesus to impact every other area of our life. Jesus is to be the controlling center of our lives...not one separate piece of it. Read and discuss the following Scriptures about the central/influencing place Jesus deserves.

Galatians 2:20    Luke 6:46-49    Romans 12:1-2    Philippians 3:8-11

**Apply it:** (10 minutes)

Repeat warning! If your small group met last week, you likely already did this, but we would love to hear from you. 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!