
Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 23 – March 30, 2020

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. **Miscomm-puter-unication.** Ask the participants to share their most embarrassing mishap using a computer. Share your own experience, for example, replying to the wrong person in an email. This will loosen them up and cause a few to chuckle before embarking on a whole new way of thinking...using technology instead of paper and pen

GOING DEEPER (used from the book, "Ultimate Reliance" by Sue Nelson Kibbey, 2019)

1. Begin your time by using one of the prayer-holds (Gift, Sweep, Release), each person naming it aloud in your meeting. Then allow a time of silent prayer, as each person releases other mental agenda items or distractions to allow inner quiet and peace for spiritual listening. Conclude the silent prayer time by all saying together, "Thy Will be Done. Amen."
2. Discussion question
 - 1) Do you remember a time in the life of our congregation, or in your own life, when we (or you) clearly chose to surrender to God in a situation, matter, or decision? If so, name this time. How did you feel? What was the eventual outplay?
 - 2) How about a time, or occasion when we as a church (or you individually) didn't choose but were instead forced or presented with a situation or circumstance that you had to surrender and accept? Name this situation or circumstance and describe your feelings at the time.
 - 3) Do you believe we (or you) were able to release the disappointment or other reactions in order for God to weave through a greater divine good? Why or why not, and what has been the outcome? Mention whether you believe that additional surrender is still needed around the situation or circumstance you named, and what might be holding you back.
3. 8 ingredients that hinders our ultimate reliance on God's faithfulness and supernatural resources.
 - 1) **Falling into the assumption that prayer's primary purpose is for God to bless or provide what we want.**-rather than to become surrendered to what God wants.
 - 2) **Getting others to pity us that God hasn't done what we asked.** – remember, when we are truly following Jesus we cannot be pitiful and powerful at the same time.
 - 3) **Having misgivings that come because our human minds are unable to figure out how God could possibly respond to the matter about which we are praying.** – Because we can't resolve or find a pathway through ourselves, we might spend endless, unproductive time in meetings attempting to imagine or speculate how God might be able to.
 - 4) **Only praying about one option.** – As long as we are praying specifically for only one single option, we may be closing ourselves off to spiritual flexibility for God to lead us according to God's greater wisdom.
 - 5) **Not including the Holy Surrender Breakthrough Prayer every time you pray.** – Do not mistakenly assume that you will automatically have courage to act when a new breakthrough opportunity opens up if you haven't been practicing the Holy Surrender breakthrough prayer.

- 6) **Not noticing the emotions that may accompany the process of Holy Surrender, and then releasing them to flow past.** – We are all entitled to our feelings. But stoking the fires of a sense of loss, sadness that our desires were not God’s, our anger, disappointments, or resentment will only hold back holistic, potential-laden surrender to the Almighty.
- 7) **Not accepting that God’s timeframe is not always our timeframe.** – Who knows? God’s full response may be hindered time-wise due to your unwillingness to surrender hate, brokenness, judgementalism, self-defeating habits, negative self-talk, poor self-care, or insistence upon your own desires.
- 8) **Losing sight of what the Holy Surrender Prayer is NOT.** – It is not tolerating abuse or evil, or co-signing sinful, destructive behavior or others around you. By praying “Thy Will Be Done,” we surrender ourselves to being available to stand up and speak up when God’s Spirit prompts us, or to exit from such actions or environments.

Q. Which of these might you have experienced as you accomplish your work and service? Have you ever been guilty of “skirting the cemetery” rather than yielding up our own comfortable preferences in order to open ourselves to God’s intent?

TAKING IT HOME (Application)

1. If you can find a palm-sized gripping cross, please ask your member to bring it. Each person is invited to hold the prayer gripping cross as a “white funeral” symbol, and name aloud (or silently) a need, situation, circumstance, or challenge to offer to God’s breakthroughs that you intend to continue to surrender ongoing in your prayer practice.

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.



Growth Group Community Service Project

We ask every group to take on at least one service project a year (the ideal is two) and to have at least one social gathering (potluck) per half a year. Please consider with your group members of what community service you’d like to participate in. There is a project list made by our church that you can join in and outside the church.

Reference

- Sue Nelson Kibbey, *Ultimate Reliance*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2019