

Youth Group Devos

-Singlemindedness-

Overview of Week: Our purpose in life is two-fold; we exist to glorify God and to make God known! In other words, we exist to be disciples of Christ, who makes disciples of Christ. However, it seems that many Christians today are very distracted from our two-fold purpose. All too often Christians are too busy focusing on their own personal desires rather than focusing on the desires of the Lord. This week we are going to discover that *disciples are people who live out a "singlemindedness"; that is, their lives are focused on God and His priorities rather than their own.*

Day 1: Read Luke 18:18-30.

1. This story contrasts two responses to the Kingdom of God. When Jesus asked the rich ruler to follow him, how did the ruler respond? (vs 23) How did the disciples respond? (vs 28)
2. What prevented the rich ruler from being totally devoted from to the Kingdom of God? (vs 22-23)
3. What are the things in your life that keep you from being "single-minded" about God and His priorities? Can you list some of the things that distract you from putting God and His priorities first in your life?

Day 2: Read Acts 2:42-47.

1. The Acts 2 church community is a powerful illustration of what a church full of committed disciples looks like. What are the actions of this church that show its "single-mindedness" to the Lord?
2. This Christ community used its time, talents, and money all for God's purposes rather than their own. Spend a few moments contemplating how you spend your time, talents, and money. Does it indicate that God and His Kingdom are the number one priority in your life?

Day 3: Read Matthew 13:44-46.

1. What did the man do when he found a valuable treasure hidden in a field? Secondly, what did the merchant do when he found a pearl of great value?
2. What do these parables teach us about singlemindedness and how we should respond to Christ, the ultimate treasure?

3. Do you *treasure* Christ above all else? Why or why not?

Day 4: Read Luke 9:23-25.

1. What is the defining characteristic of all true disciples? (vs23)
2. Much of discipleship is surrendering your own will, desires, and life in order to follow and live for Jesus Christ. In what ways is God asking you to give up your own will, desires, and life for the sake of the Kingdom? What do you struggle to give up to the Lord?
3. What is the consequence for failing to crucify yourself? (vs 24-25) What is the reward for being single-mindedly focused upon Jesus instead of our own selves? (vs 24-25)

Day 5: Read Acts 20:17-24.

1. Paul is an incredible example of someone living a single-minded life for the Kingdom. What do these verses reveal that Paul had to endure in order to faithfully preach the Gospel? (vs 19, 20, 23)
2. What enabled Paul to live this lifestyle out? What was Paul's single-minded mission? (vs 24)
3. Why do you think Paul would have given up his comfortable life of power and wealth to preach the Gospel even though it resulted in prison, beatings, and ultimately his own death?

End of Week Lofty Ponders

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you see EVERY aspect of your life and work as service to God?
2. If you sat before God today, would He say that your life is more about living out your dreams, desires, and plans or more about living out His desires and dreams?
3. What is one practical step that you can make this upcoming week, in order to live a more "single-minded" life?