

First Christian Church of Napa – “Trust” Series – week 2

STUDY IT UP

Last week we asked you to think about the fact that God has a plan and that you have a part in that plan. This week we want to focus on cooperating with and achieving that plan. But think about this first: Why bother? Why work so hard on this? What’s the big deal about accomplishing the plan?

Before you do anything else in your group take a minute or two, individually, and ask God those questions. Just between you and Him, pray and ask Him to give you clarity and understanding. *Ask Him why any of this should matter to you.*

Getting Started

1. There is a clash of values going on in us when it comes to fully participating with God’s plans. Takers vs. givers, consumers vs. suppliers, the self-absorbed vs. the self-sacrificing. Maybe it’s not quite that black and white, but why do you think that so many people are so preoccupied with their own needs, desires and comforts?

2. What’s at stake with all of this? What doesn’t happen if you and I don’t fully engage in God’s plan? Take a look at the following verses and answer two questions:

(1)What are we asked to do?

(2)What happens if we don’t do what is described in these verses?

a. Galatians 6:1-2

b. Galatians 6:9-10

c. Philippians 2:3

d. Colossians 3:1-2

e. Colossians 3:12-13

f. 2 Timothy 4:2

Digging Deeper

Read Matthew 25:14-30. *Take a few minutes and read that passage out loud in your group.* Based on that passage, discuss the questions below.

3. What does the parable say about the importance of spiritual profitability? In other words, what does Jesus tell us about making a profit on what God has given to each of us?

4. Having read the story, what would you say about God's urgency for getting a "return" on His investment?

5. Ephesians 6:10-18 talks about the spiritual war that we are all locked in. The passage tells us that both God and Satan are trying to establish and expand their kingdoms here on earth. That is called spiritual warfare and I don't know anyone who takes warfare lightly. It is always a matter of life and death. However, for many followers of Jesus, there is little urgency about the spiritual war that rages. How about you? How's your urgency over the battle? What are the things that take the edge off of our urgency when it comes to fully participating in the spiritual battle?

Bringing it Home

"The potential of you...the potential of us." Inside a tiny acorn is all the potential necessary to create a massive oak tree. Inside of you is extraordinary potential to yield kingdom results. Don't forget: you are part of God's plan to grow His kingdom. God has decided to use His church to accomplish His purposes in the world. We are His plan A and there is not a plan B.

Have you given up on your potential? Some people simply don't believe they can be used by God. Look at some of the more common reasons people feel like they are unusable:

- 1) I'm too bad to be useful to God.
- 2) I'm too small and insignificant to be a productive contributor.
- 3) I'm afraid of what it might cost me if I achieve my potential.

6. Do you believe in your own potential to contribute to God's plan? What do you think about your personal potential make a difference? What do the other people in your small group think about your potential to be a part of God's plan?

7. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? In other words, in the context of the parable we read this week, do you know yet what "talents" the master Jesus has given to you? What has God asked you to multiply?

8. Are you in danger of burying the spiritual gift that God has given you? If you have, what would it take for you to dig out that gift, brush it off and begin to use it? What will you do now?