



Dig Deeper @Home – “Letters to Finland”

Complement to lesson on 06/27/21 – “Letter to Finland from Mark Swartley”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Where is your absolute favorite place in the world to be?
2. How do you determine what is true? What factors weigh in to your discernment?

MEMORIZE – 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

READ Matthew 6:33-34 & Ephesians 6:10-17

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read this passage? What sticks out to you?
 - a. What general observations can you make? Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared?
2. How does this passage point us to Jesus?
3. Matthew 6:33 instructs us to “seek first his (Jesus’s) kingdom.” If we are honest, often we seek many other things and merely “sprinkle a little Jesus on our lives” for good measure. What does it look like to make His kingdom your top priority? What promise does verse 33 offer those who do align their priorities rightly? What sign that you might not have your priorities in line does verse 34 point out?
4. The literal translation of Ephesians 6:10 is to “strengthen yourself in the Lord.” In what ways do you do this in your own life? While this command seems to require action on our part, the word also implies a sense of being empowered. Take a look at this verse in the Amplified Bible and you will see it translated thus, “be strong in the Lord [draw your strength from Him and be empowered through your union with Him] and in the power of His [boundless] might.” Have you ever experienced being “empowered through your union with (Jesus)?”

Experiential activity – Seeking first... Literally

When Matthew 6 instructs us to “seek first his kingdom” it is instructing us to make Jesus’s kingdom the top priority in our lives. If we seek God and His will first, then we will find ourselves in the place where God wants us to be... which is ultimately best in the long run!

This week, seek His kingdom first by **LITERALLY** seeking God first thing in your daily routine.

Commit to spend several minutes reading and meditating on one of the below verses first thing when you wake up, before you even leave your bed! After reading and contemplating, pray to be “empowered in the Lord” (Ephesians 6:10) to be able to live out what you have read.

These verses focus on prioritizing Jesus, your relationship with him, and His kingdom!

Romans 12:1-2
Colossians 2:6-10
Matthew 6:25-34
Luke 12:34
Titus 2:11-14

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Lauren Daigle: First - <https://youtu.be/RbWQV3OiRqA>

Be the Centre - <https://youtu.be/pw6rlwmkV6E>

What a Friend We Have in Jesus - (Mennonite Hymnal #337) <https://youtu.be/Hvgg9iMVaUg>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the series:

Father, thank you for removing my heart of stone and replacing it with a heart of flesh. Guide me by your indwelling Spirit to walk in your decrees and obey your laws. (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

Shape me into what you would have me be, and may my life be an open letter to all who cross my path so that I may be a faithful witness to Jesus, my Lord and King. (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

Amen.