



2021.2.18&21

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- 1. Pastor Doug told of two close Christian friends who had a falling out—and to this day neither is willing to budge. They're bitter and unwilling even to be in the same room! Read Hebrews 12:15-17. According to v. 15a, what makes a person become "bitter" (v. 15b), "immoral" and "godless" (v. 16)?
- 2. How does **discipline** help us not "*come short of the grace of God*" (Hebrews 12:4-14)?
- 3. How does **prayer** help us not "*come short of the grace of God*" (Hebrews 4:16)?
- 4. Jonah didn't pray until he was in distress (2:2; until then, he slept, oblivious to the danger—see 1:5)! Tell about a situation in which you went from oblivious to deeply distressed. What happened? **Why** do you think you were oblivious to the risk early on? **What** convinced you of the seriousness?
- 5. What role did prayer play in that event? How has that event impacted your prayer life **currently**?
- 6. In Acts 12:1–5 we see the early church praying fervently because they were in grave danger. Then, we see God's miraculous deliverance (v. 6-11)—and the humorous conclusion (v. 12-16)! The prayer was fervent and united (v. 5 & 12)—but what did it **lack** (v. 14-16)?
- 7. Mark this "faith-o-meter" with a line at the level of faith that you think they displayed.
- 8. **To what** does James 1:6 **compare** the person who prays, yet without faith? **In what two ways** does James 1:8 **label** the person who prays, yet without faith? **What** does James 1:7 say the person should **expect**, who prays, yet without faith?
- 9. Mark the "faith-o-meter" with a **bold line** at **your** typical level of faith when praying.
- 10. How could today's "Application-Challenge" help you move up on the "faith-o-meter"?
- 12. **Need someone to pray with you?**
Just write to:
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com



Application-Challenge

- 11. "Salvation is from the Lord" (Jonah 2:9). Have you turned from self to God?
- Are you **continuing to** turn from as much as you know of your sin, to give as much as you know of yourself, to as much as you know of your God?

1 All of this bracketed content goes together. Read the first statement (“Pastor Doug told of...”) Then have group members open their Bibles to Hebrews 12:15-17 and ask one member to read it aloud for the group. Have folks keep their Bibles open to Hebrews 12—you’ll refer to it again. Then, ask the question about bitterness. It seems that the vague statement of “coming short of the grace of God” somehow explains it. Let group members grapple with it and make comments.

2 Now read the fuller passage of Hebrews 12:4-14, which is the context for the commands of v. 15-16. Then, ask the question, and let group members grapple with it and make comments.

3 Now flip back a couple of pages and read Hebrews 4:16. This passage tells us **how to receive** “mercy and find grace to help in time of need”—which help us “not come short of the grace of God”. The key, it says, is to “draw near with confidence to the throne of grace”—which clearly involves prayer. Now, ask the question, and let group members grapple with it and make comments.

4 Read Jonah 1:1-5, and read the first statement (“Jonah didn’t pray until...”). Then, ask all four of these bracketed questions and invite group members to tell of such an incident. The goal here is simply to get a few stories out on the table, so that further analysis can occur.

5 Ask both of these questions of the person(s) who shared stories in response to 4.

6 All of this bracketed content goes together. Have group members open their Bibles to Acts 12. Then say, “In Acts 12:1-5 we see the early church...” and have a group member read that passage aloud.

Then, continue with the next statement (“Then, we see God’s miraculous deliverance...”) and read Acts 12:6-16.

Finally, make the statement, “The prayer was fervent and united...”), have someone read v. 5 & 12, observing those two qualities of the prayer, and then read v. 14-16 allow group members to observe that it lacked faith. Let group members grapple with the idea of “fervent and united prayer, yet which lacks faith”! Allow them to make comments and ask questions.

7 Have group members **individually** mark that “faith-o-meter” with their own conclusion about the level of faith displayed in Acts 12. Note—this is a totally subjective exercise (but it will set them up for a later question).

8 Ask the first question, and allow group members to answer it, based on James 1:6. **Then**, ask the second question and allow group members to answer it, based on James 1:8. **Finally**, ask the third question and allow group members to answer it, based on James 1:7. Let group members grapple with these truths, ask questions, and make comments.

9 Have group members **individually** mark the “faith-o-meter” regarding **their own** typical level of faith when they pray, and then to share their answers with the group. Again, this is a totally subjective exercise, but it allows group members to grapple with whether or not they are satisfied with their prayer life.

10 Ask this question to the group, and then read the Application-Challenge. Here are some possible answers: To the **first** bullet point, salvation enables us to receive/believe and understand biblical truth. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14-15 to the group. Show that unless and until a person is saved, he **cannot** accept and understand anything beyond the basics of the Christian life. For the **second** bullet point: Since repentance equals responsiveness to God, more repentance **results in** more spiritual insight; less repentance **results in** less spiritual insight. Matthew 11:25-27 and 13:9-17 teach this truth.

11 } Urge group members to respond to the Application-Challenge
12 } and to make use of TCC’s offer of prayer and discipleship help.

Urge men to sign up for the PointMan Firepit Breakfast.

MEN!

THE WAIT

IS OVER!



PointMan Breakfast at the fire pit!

- Saturday, March 13

- 9⁰⁰-10³⁰am

- Just \$10

- Bring a camp chair

- Chick-fil-a breakfast (gluten free option available)

- To register: tcc.org

Keyword: **PointMan**

