

Grace Groups Homework
"The Incurable Wound"

Jeremiah 15:15–21

23 October 2016

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. We've had occasion to ask this question previously, but it's been a while: What memorable biographies have you enjoyed and learned from?

WORLDVIEW

2. Is fear, loneliness and pain the natural experience of those that take the Lord and His commandments seriously in our antagonistic and secular age?

INTO THE BIBLE

3. Christians have had their greatest fears relieved and yet they still live with the reality of threat and dread in their daily lives. How do the following passages inform your attitude and actions when confronted with various anxieties of life?

Philippians 4:4–9—Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

2 Timothy 3:10–15—But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 4:12–19—Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

1 Peter 5:6–11—Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your

adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

4. What point or insight into the nature of prayer did you find most helpful, challenging or interesting this week?
5. What have you found to be of practical benefit in increasing the intimacy of and in your prayers?
6. How does meaningful participation in the Lord's Supper lead to a fuller, richer and more "successful" prayer life?
7. If the right doctrine and thinking about God determines our behavior before God, do you agree with Therese of Lisieux's statement that: "Talking to God, I felt, is always better than talking about God; those pious conversations—there's always a touch of self-approval about them."

PRAYER ITEMS

Prayer Psalm: 2

Church Families: Alan & Bettie Jamie; Jeremy, Alvida, Celine & Ian Johnson

Special Needs: Marlene van den Heuvel; Hannah Murphy; Moira Moyle; Hansen Pillay; Matric pupils; Unemployed & underemployed; Rain and repentance

Expectant Couples: Hugo & Wendy-Leigh van der Walt; Tyron & Selaysha Armstrong

Adoptions: Ongoing adoption paperwork

Ministry: Young Adults

The Great Commission:

- Gareth & Keri Franks (India)
- Mauritius (Indian Ocean)—Evangelism is difficult in this complex society. The Hinduisation of government and culture, as well as strong ancestral and ethnic ties, provide great stumblingblocks for the gospel. There is, however, some bold Christian witness. Pray that the Holy Spirit would use this witness to draw many to Christ.
- Unreached Focus: Namassej (Bangladesh)

Sister Churches: Central Baptist Church (Rustenburg)—Pastoral vacancy

Our Country: Trade & Industry—Dr Rob Davis; Mr Mzwandile Masina

As you do your regular grocery shopping, please remember to add something to your trolley to donate to the Food for the Family ministry. Regularly used items include: rice (1kg or 2kg); juice; washing powder (auto or hand wash); cooking oil (750ml or 2-litre); peanut butter; syrup; jam; tea; coffee; sandwich spread; pilchards; tuna; cake flour; baked beans; butter beans; mixed vegetables; tomato and onion mix; other canned foods; Cremora or long life milk; pasta; noodles; condiments (tomato sauce, mustard), etc.; sugar (1kg or 2.5kg); mielie meal; bath soap; deodorant (roll-on); toothpaste. Speak to Andre Truter for more information.