

WHAT IS A HEALTHY CHURCH MEMBER?

BY THABITI ANYABWILE

THIS BOOK ANSWERS THE QUESTION: "HOW WILL YOU BECOME A BETTER MEMBER AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE HEALTH OF GOD'S FAMILY IN THIS PLACE (THE LOCAL CHURCH)?" "THE HEALTH OF THE LOCAL CHURCH DEPENDS UPON THE WILLINGNESS OF ITS MEMBERS TO INSPECT THEIR HEARTS, CORRECT THEIR THINKING, AND APPLY THEIR HANDS TO THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY" (PAGE 15).

Community Group Questions

LEADERSHIP TIPS (From a training session at Sov Grace Fairfax, VA)

Five Pointers on Using the Take It Home Questions:

1. You'll always have twice as many Take it Home questions as you will need for your group. Choose ones that might be most helpful for your group.
2. Don't focus on answering all the questions, use the questions to get into personal application.
3. Take some time to read the passage and remind the folks of the main points and key ideas, but keep this as brief as possible. Don't re-preach the message.
4. Come with a back-up plan. If you're not getting a lift from the Take it Home questions, have a question relevant to what's going on with the folks in the group.
5. Try to engage folks in responding *to each other*, so you don't become the 'answer person'.

Leaders remember our monthly goals

1. Prayer- around gospel encounters, praises in the group, praises of our great God.
2. Encourage intentional living (gospeling in the everyday)
3. Verbally inform about church life- announcements (or prayer about - facility, prayer regarding pressing issues in your group or in the church- see point one)
4. Apply the word
 - a. Scripture memory- *Isaiah 26:3-4*
 - b. sermon application
 - c. Putting off the old self and putting on Christ
 - i. confession leading to repentance through

- ii. accountability- we want people to be suspicious of their own hearts and learn to apply the gospel with adults and children.

5. Joy in all you do ☺

CHAPTERS 3 & 4

Seek to apply some of the following questions:

1. Talk about interesting parts from Chapters 3 & 4. Share one idea God used to convict or comfort your heart.
2. Chapter 3 was about healthy church members being "Gospel saturated." (The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and all its implications for the believer). How are you seeking to know and remember the Gospel each day? (speaking it to self, memorizing particular Scriptures, praying the Gospel, etc.) What comfort have you received from the Gospel this week?
3. On page 42, the author states that we are to "order our lives around the Gospel," so that it's central to our communication with others, our decision-making, our relationships, and our everyday habits. In the middle of page 43, the author mentions several possible ways a person can order their life around the Gospel. Which of these ways are you encouraged to pursue and why?
4. On page 44, the author states that "a gospel-saturated life is one that splashes out onto others with the good news." He suggests that believers should invite non-Christian family and friends to church and also regularly greet and talk to visitors at church, seeking to discuss the Gospel with them. Who is God leading you to invite to church, and/or share the Gospel with? Do you need to be more intentional in greeting and caring for visitors at church?
5. In Chapter 4, pages 50-54, the author states that we must know and examine our own souls well by asking the following questions: "*Do we walk in the light or darkness? Do we love God the Father? Do we love other believers? Does God's Spirit testify with our spirit that we are His children? Are we persevering in the faith?*" As you examined your own heart, which of these questions did God use to bring conviction leading to repentance, or comfort to your soul? Explain. (Remember that our salvation is based solely upon

trusting in the finished work of Jesus, not our performance).

6. Take some time to point out evidences of grace in one another as we see each other loving God the Father, walking in the light, loving other believers, and persevering in the faith. Praise God for His grace and Spirit that are so evident in other believers!