

# life groups discussion guide

May 22, 2016



**series: Brick and Mortar**

**title: "The Right Tools"**

The Battle of Cannae took place in 216 BC, during the Second Punic War. The great Roman Republic army more than doubled their foe, with an infantry of 80,000 men. They chose to engage the Carthaginian general Hannibal. Hannibal, the son of a general, was a well-trained military genius. Hannibal not only devised a winning strategy, but completely annihilated the Roman army. Dwight Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in World War II, wrote, "Every ground commander seeks the battle of annihilation; so far as conditions permit, he tries to duplicate in modern war classic example of Cannae".

Cannae is an example of positioning oneself for victory, even in the face of overwhelming opposition. Even when outnumbered, a strong foundation and proper training can lead to not only physical victories, but spiritual ones as well. We read in Proverbs 24, "The wise prevail through great power, and those who have knowledge muster their strength. **Surely you need guidance to wage war, and victory is won through many advisers.** Eat honey, my son, for it is good; honey from the comb is sweet to your taste. Know also that wisdom is like honey for you: If you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off."

### Discussion:

In what ways can we prepare ourselves for spiritual battle?

Proverbs says that, "victory is won through many advisors." How can this be applied to your life?

What can we do to increase both our knowledge and wisdom? Are we doing these things regularly? Why or why not?

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We live in an age of post modernism and moral relativism. So seeking after a single truth is considered a futile exercise by society, since a single truth doesn't exist. Rather, individual truth is to be determined and found within each individual. John MacArthur in talking about his book *The Truth War*, said, "The church is not concerned about truth because it is too concerned about other things. It is concerned about being culturally savvy, it is concerned about being clever, and it is concerned about affecting culture on a superficial level. Truth is a synonym for what things really are, not for what you think things are."

Post modernism has allowed Christians to be lazy in their studies. We are less likely to be in the word and search for knowledge when knowledge and truth are moving targets. So we are growing a generation with a lack of emphasis on what the Bible says and more on what the generation feels. The problem with this

mentality is that as Jeremiah wrote, “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” Therefore we need to be diligently in the word, searching for truth to equip us properly. Col 1:8-9. For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,

***Discussion:***

Paul writes in Colossians that he continually prays that God will give others understanding. Why is this necessary and how is this contrary to modern thinking?

By what other means can we obtain truth and knowledge?

Why is it dangerous to solely rely on your own instinct or consciousness to determine truth?

Do you see examples in today’s society that young generations are encouraged to find truth in themselves verses in scripture? If so, how can this be combated?

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The importance of truth and knowledge are fundamental to our lives. In addition is the application of this knowledge. James says, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.” Or in other words - we can have the right tool, but if we don’t put it to work...then it is useless.

James goes on to say in chapter 2, “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”

Merely believing doesn’t necessarily put you in good company. Even demons have head knowledge. Many of the worst people in history had some knowledge of Christ and even believed he was God’s son. But there was no application, no fruit, and no relationship.

***Discussion:***

Describe why head knowledge alone is not true wisdom.

How do we separate ourselves from those, like the demons, who believe in Christ, but do not apply it to their lives?

**Prayer:**

Dear God, thank you for your Word and for truth. Please give us the conviction to thirst after your truth that can only be given through your Word and through prayer. Help us to apply the knowledge be displaying wisdom in our daily lives. Make us battle ready by equipping us with armor only you can provide. Amen.