



Discussion Questions from Weekly Message

Feel free to customize this to use in your small group, family or for you personally

From Message on: 10/11/20

Optional Opener Question

What is one REALLY good habit your parents tried to pass on to you? Did their intentions succeed?

Introductory Thought

Our new series is loosely based on Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, subtitled "Powerful lessons in Personal Change." In order to change the situations around us, it's possible that we first need to change ourselves.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think the book originally hit such a powerful chord in people? What does it mean to be effective? What do you think the world says we need to do to be more effective? Effective at what? Can you be effective in one situation or area of your life and not effective at another? What might that look like?
- Brent quoted Stephen Covey: "We began to realize that if we wanted to change the situation, we first had to change ourselves." What do you think he meant by that? Can you think of a couple of situations that might illustrate that statement? How might my need to be "right" short circuit that principle? How does Psalm 51:10 add to the discussion?
- Brent talked about Zacchaeus. If you need to review, read Luke 19:1-10. List all the "actors" in this drama; be sure to include the crowd! Tell the story from each of their perspectives. What are the expectations for those few minutes of the encounter for each of the actors/groups? How does the telling of the story change, depending on the point of view? Whose perspective is the "right" one? What can we learn and apply to situations in our own everyday lives? Do we bring our own perceptions into our moments of drama?
- Quote: "To change our thinking, we must first get past ourselves, our own pride." What do you think Brent means by "get past ourselves?" How could pride sabotage our efforts to get past ourselves? Look up Prov 18:12. How might pride be a bad thing? Is it reasonable to hope that we can learn to be objective enough to get outside of our own perspectives? How do we do that? Read Col 3:9-10: what is our "new self?"
- Romans 12:1-2 talks about "don't copy the behavior and customs of the world, but let God transform you into a new person..." In what ways might we be guilty of copying the world and what does that look like? Think work, play, possessions, and home. What does it mean to transform? What's the difference between changing behavior verses changing a heart? Be sure to add 2 Cor 5:17 to the discussion. If you're willing, share an area where you can see transformation happening in your life.
- Digging deeper: Scripture talks about "a new song," one you have when God has really changed you from the inside out. To add to the thought, read Psalm 40:3, 144:9, 149:1, Isaiah 42:10, Rev 14:3, 15:3. As a Christian, how would you define "a new song?" Do you have a new melody with new lyrics that has grown in your life?
- Remember the illustration about the battleship getting into a "war of wills" with the Lighthouse? What does a "war of wills" with God look like? Sounds kinda dumb when you put it on paper, but how easy is it to do? What role does Scripture play in changing our perspectives? Read Ps 119:36-37 for David's thoughts.
- Evaluate this statement: "God is the lighthouse not only guiding us but protecting us." How is God protecting us and from what? Psalm 119:105, 2 Tim 3:16-17. Do you have any examples of God's protecting and directing that you maybe didn't see at the time? Does that change how you go into the next "uncertain time of your life?"

Practical Application & Next Steps

- Is God touching a specific area of your perspective that needs to be transformed? Recognizing the need is the first step to meeting that need. What will you DO with that insight?
- Brent asked us to allow God over the next few weeks to transform the way we think, the way we view ourselves, the way we view God, and the way we view others. In the next seven days, give God permission to work on your heart values. Make that permission to Him official and intentional.