



Discussion Questions from Weekly Message

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

From Message on: 10/18/20

Optional Opener Question

Was there ever a time when you got blamed for something you didn't do? OR, a time when someone else got blamed for your misdeed? What happened?

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. The first habit is to BE PROACTIVE.

Discussion Questions

- What did you think about Brent's statement: "This will blow our minds, but we can think about what we are thinking about. In other words, we can consider... whether or not what we are thinking about is right or good." What are the implications? What part does my conscience play? Who defines right or good?
- Before you continue, stop and define what it means to be proactive. Now define the opposite word: Reactive.
- What did you think of this statement: "To be proactive is to be intentional about how we live regardless of our surroundings." What does intentional look like? What part does freedom of choice play? If you remember the story of Viktor Frankl in the concentration camp, add that to your discussion. What needed to happen in Viktor's thinking to be able to rise above such awful circumstances? How hard would it have been for you to be proactive not reactive in those circumstances?
- In what ways is Reactive the opposite of Proactive? What causes us to knee-jerk-react to stresses, aka go straight into Fight or Flight mode? What hang-ups or emotional baggage or values do I bring? What might cause me to go into "oh yeah, wanna bet" mode? Is revenge proactive or reactive? In what ways might a habit of reacting be a trap or even just a hamster wheel?
- Is BLAME proactive or reactive? Explain your thoughts. Why do we play the "blame game?" What part does pride play? Is it freeing to assign fault to someone else? In what ways might it not be real freedom? Read Matt 7:3-5 for Jesus' words on this very subject.
- Is forgiveness proactive or reactive? Why? Read Mark 11:25 for Jesus' hard instructions on this.
- **How do I move from a habit of being reactive to a habit of being proactive?** Is there a value that needs to be changed?
- Evaluate this statement: "Circumstances don't create stress, they reveal lack of peace inside me." True or false or somewhere in between? How could I be proactive about addressing the real problem and what might the real problem be?
- What do you think of this often heard statement: "You made me so angry." Proactive or reactive and why?
- **Digging deeper:** Is God's love for us proactive or reactive? Is it possible that we react to other people in a negative way because we don't really know who we are in God's eyes? Add these verses to your thoughts:
 - I John 4:19 John 3:16 Romans 5:8
 - Eph 2:4-5 I John 3:1 Deuteronomy 7:7-9 Jeremiah 31:3

Practical Application & Next Steps

- In the next seven days, be the observer of your life. Ask God to show you illustrations from your own life of being proactive and/or reactive. This will require courage on your part to face those areas He wants to transform. Choose Life: Deut 30:19-20
- Is there a broken relationship that you need to figure out what being proactive looks like? Make this your prayer for wisdom every day for the next seven days. James 1:5