



Discussion Questions from Weekly Message

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

From Message on: 9/13/20

Optional Opener Question

What skills or activities have you learned? Did you play a sport or a musical instrument when you were growing up?

Introductory Thought

Paradoxes are seemingly self-contradictory statements that might seem to go against the grain of our culture. This week we looked at the Paradox of Fundamentals. The world wants us to win big without the work; God says success comes through working on the small, simple, basic things.

Discussion Questions

- What do you think of this statement: “I want patience and I want it NOW!” What if God really answered that prayer? How does the **process** of learning make the end result stronger?
- Brent shared the story from 2 Kings 5:9-15 of Naaman who suffered from leprosy. If you need to review, this would be a good time to read it again. Camp for a minute on the word **expectation**; what was Naaman’s expectation for his healing? Think of his expectation as “the mental picture of the way he thought things were going to go.” Why do you think he had that expectation? In what ways could we also be guilty of pre-formed expectations? How do our expectations change the dialog or affect the way we process circumstances?
- Why do you think that Naaman was so angry with such a **simple** solution to his problem? “Angry and stalked away” doesn’t sound like a neutral response! What role does pride sometimes play in our responses?
- Go back and read the verses before our section: 1 Kings 5:1-2. How did Naaman even know to go to the Prophet in another country, Israel? What small, simple basic things do you see demonstrated here? How did the young girl’s commitment to her faith affect the high-ranking official’s life? How is **faithfulness a small, simple basic thing**? Or is it? What insights could you gain from this that might apply to your own life?
- Read verse 13. What role did his servants play in this? What if the servants had fed into his anger? How important could the **one basic thing** be of surrounding myself with wise companions? Have you ever had friends who brought “sanity” into your moment of “insanity?” (*or calm in your storm?*)
- Brent said: “I wonder if sometimes our image, **our view of God**, is more a reflection of ourselves than actually of God.” What do you think he meant by this? Do any examples come to mind? How has your view of God changed in the time you’ve been a Christian? What are some false pictures of God... start with Santa-Clause-like and work on from there. How important is it to have a correct understanding of the character of God as our base?
- Digging deeper for fun: the prophet asked Naaman to dip seven times in the river. **Seven is a number** that occurs again and again in Scripture; in spite of its reputation in Las Vegas, it’s never cast as a “lucky number.” Here are just a few occurrences in Scripture:
 - Gen 2:1-3 Gen 7:2-3 Lev 8:10-12 Deut 31:10-11 Josh 6:2-15
 - I Kings 18:43 Ps 119:164-165 Rev 1:20 Matt 18:21-22 Matt 15:35-37
- Read Col 2:6-7. Highlight the words “**live, rooted, built-up.**” What role does time play? Compare those words to learning to play a musical instrument. Now overlay the words “small, simple, basic things.” What insights could you get from that?
- **Why does a professional basketball player shoot free throw baskets for hours on end? What are the small, simple, basic things that will bring success? What part do habits play? What can I be doing spiritually that seems ordinary, small, too basic-to-count, but will reap a harvest in the long run? Matthew 25:23**

Practical Application & Next Steps

- If you need work on the basics, what will you do to fix that? Are they reflected in your schedule? Is God putting His finger on something that needs changing? What will you do with these insights? Speak up!