



IMMANUEL CHURCH

Discussion Guide: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves **May 7, 2017**

Opening Questions:

- The majority of people think the cliché, “God helps those who help themselves,” came from the Bible, how do you suppose that happened? Why do we *want* to believe that it is in fact, the way God works?
- What does our adherence to this idea say about us as a society? What do we seem to value most?
- Have you ever been in a situation where God didn’t help you even though you tried really hard? And have you ever seen God help someone who wasn’t putting forth much effort? How’d you feel in both situations?

Looking at Scripture:

- Read **Genesis 11:1-7...** Was God just being selfish or jealous? Why wouldn’t he want people to be united and powerful; leaving a legacy behind? And do you think the people were wrong in their motivations and desires? Why or why not?
- Read **Proverbs 3:5-6** and **Isaiah 41:13...** Christianity is so often about dependency. In what ways does that comfort you and in what other ways does it bother you?
- Why is it so hard for us to submit to another person (let alone God)? Is it a control thing? A power thing? A trust thing? An all-of-the-above thing?
- Have you ever thought of this cliché as our way of manipulating or obligating God? Why is it that humans always seem to come back to performance-based affection when it comes to his love? Why do we always think his help is based on merit or achievement?

Application Questions:

- This week’s bottom line was **GOD HELPS THOSE WHO SUBMIT THEMSELVES**. Does that mean that God will *always* give us what we want as long as we pray first? How is this different from just another way of saying the same thing as the cliché?
- Check in with each other and whether or not everyone has set their phones with a noon alarm to remind them to PAUSE. What do you anticipate that break in your day being like? Do you think you’ll actually stick to it?
- How much do you find yourself still wanting to believe the cliché is true? Why do we defend it? How do we stop leaning our lives on something that’s just not true?

End your time together praying for one another, asking God to remind each of you to pause regularly and ask him where you’re going. Ask him to change the way we think about ambition and accomplishment. Ask him to help you hold on to him instead of going it alone, hoping he jumps on board later on.