

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

Open Doors (Rev. 3:7-8)

Rev. Bob Fleming, FEB Central

Sunday, October 30, 2016

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. A special day this Sunday October 30-2016 as WHBC has its opening day ceremony for the newly expanded Worship and Ministry Centre! A somewhat comparable event occurred in Nehemiah after the historic re-building of the Walls and Gates of Jerusalem. Read Nehemiah 6:15-16 and 8: 1 -18. Discuss how the Israelites celebrated the completion of the work and what were some of the responses of the people? Take time as a group to share your own thoughts and hopes regarding the special dedication on Sunday.

2. This journey of faithfulness of West Highland Church has not happened overnight – Steve Oswald mentioned his first discussions with Glen Reinders were over 11 years ago! How are we like the people of Philadelphia as noted in Rev 3:7-8?

3. Rev. Fleming reminded us that God uses the weak. Why do you believe He chooses to do this, rather than use the strong?

4. Read also Matthew 18:1-19, and discuss the following:
 - a. In this passage, the disciples were asking who was the greatest, thinking they were strong, but Jesus was truly using the weak. How is this demonstrated by their conduct in this situation and others?
 - b. How does God change and shape them into men He can use?

5. Revelation 3:8 speaks about God opening doors even for those of little strength within the church of Philadelphia. Read II Corinthians 12: 8 – 10, I Corinthians 1: 25 - 27, Romans 8:26, I Corinthians 15:43, and Hebrews 4:15. Please meditate on these passages and discuss why is there such a paradox in Scripture where God can greatly use someone who is weak or of little strength? Bonus question – Read Matthew 5:5, is there a difference between meekness and weakness?
6. Revelation 3 discusses the fact that what God starts or opens, nobody can stop or close. In Matthew 18, God gives the disciples this same authority. Why do you believe that He chose to do so in this situation?
7. Read Acts 16:6 – 10 and see how God had closed a door and opened another for the Apostle Paul. What blessed ministries occurred with God's change in plans? For reference, read Acts: 16:14-15, Acts 16:16-18, Acts 16: 19-34, Acts 16:40 (Philippi), Acts 17:4 (Thessalonica) , Acts 17: 16-34, and Acts 18: 1-11 (Corinth).
8. Our speaker shared a story of reluctance in responding to God's direction in his life, and then the subsequent rewards of faith and obedience. Have you experience similar reluctance in your life, and how has it turned out? Are you a “Here I am Lord, send me” person? What are alternatives to being “sent”?
9. As you reflect and meditate on Revelations 3:7, what kind of open doors do you think God is placing before you in your own circle and environment? How might one discern what is an open door from God and what may not be? Rev. Fleming shared a story about a man named Nathan who used ‘board games’ as a means to draw people and to reach out to them for Jesus Christ; what might you be “gifted in” or interested in that could be used for outreach? Consider Romans 12:3-8.