

Small Group Bible Study / Discussion

Sermon Series: *Lord, teach us to pray*

Sermon Title: Seek a Relationship, not a Religion
Passage: John 17:3; Romans 12:1-2

Date: January 4, 2009
Message # 1

Think about it

- Why are people so attracted to the things and values of this world?
- Why do so many consider religion (and/or church) boring or irrelevant?
- What words do you associate with "prayer"?
(Boring? Mystery? Dry? Guilt? Power? Life? Relationship? ...other?)
- Who do you think of as someone who really knows God? What makes you think of them?
- Would you like to know God's will for your life? Why? Why not?

Examine it

- How does Jesus begin His prayer? (John 17:1-2)
- How does Jesus describe eternal life? (John 17:3)
- What does Paul urge his readers to do? (Romans 12:1-2)
- What do "conform" and "transform" have in common? How are they different?
- How does transformation happen? (12:2)
- What is the result of being transformed? (12:2)

Discuss it

- Why do you think Jesus include an explanation of eternal life in His prayer to the Father?
(see John 11:42)
- What does it mean to "know the only true God"?
- What is a "living sacrifice"?
- How do we tend to conform to the pattern of this world?
- How can we renew our minds?
- What do you think a renewed mind looks like? (What does a person look like who has one?)
- Do you think it's hard or easy to discover God's will for your life? Why?

Live it out

- What are you doing to deepen your relationship with God? Is it working?
- What help do you need to grow in your relationship with God?
- Would you say that lately you are being more conformed to the patterns of this world, or transformed by the renewing of your mind? Why do you say that? Anything you need to do about that?
- What do you need to discern about God's will for your life? What would help you do that?

Pray about it

What does this study prompt you to pray about?

...something to praise God for? ...thank God for? ...confess? ...ask for?

Additional passage for meditation or memory: Philippians 3:7-10; Jeremiah 9:23-24; John 14:6-9;
2 Corinthians 4:4-6; Ephesians 1:15-17

Next week's passage: Ephesians 6:10-20