

Georgetown Small Group Discussion Guide

January, 2017

(The next discussion guide will be available on February 5)

How Will We Live?

1. Psalm 1 is one of the most familiar psalms in the Bible. It is brief, direct and profound. What are some of the things you notice about this psalm? What is the central question and challenge arising from this psalm?
2. The word “blessed” in verse 1 does not capture the full meaning of the Hebrew word. A more helpful rendering might be, “Oh, the joy that belongs to one who . . .” What is it that causes such joy? It’s the uncompromising purity of living life right with God. Why does this bring joy? As you answer this question, think about the times when you have wrestled with compromise or your failure to live out good intentions.
3. What makes compromise so dangerous is that one compromise (and accompanying rationalization) leads to another and to another until you find yourself at a place spiritually that you never intended. Note the progression of verbs (walk, stand, sit). What is the writer describing with each? Have you seen this happen or experienced this?
4. Think about Lot, Samson, and Joseph. How do you see the age-old battle with compromise played out in each of their lives? What might we learn from them?
5. Where does the battle with compromise and spiritual erosion begin? Spend some time thinking about practical, concrete steps you can take to avoid its gravitational pull. Wherever possible, speak from your personal experience and real life observations.
6. Are there areas of your life showing spiritual, ethical or moral compromise? Have you begun to tolerate a few compromises you once rejected? Share your thoughts with your group.
7. How do we counteract the temptation to compromise? One critically important way is to stay grounded in God’s Word and immerse ourselves in it. Read again verse 2. What does it mean to immerse ourselves in Scripture? How is “meditating” different than simply reading? What is the writer intending to say to us?
8. Share with your group your struggles and joys as you try to keep yourself grounded in Scripture.
9. Read vs 3. What is the writer saying through this metaphor? How have you experienced this in your life?
10. What could be worse than coming to the end of your life and realizing that none of the things you pursued mattered; that you cast your lot in the wrong direction? Read vs 4-6. Ponder this together.
11. What do you hear God saying to you in this study?
12. Close in a time of prayer. Begin by spending a few minutes simply delighting in the Lord. Tell him how much you love him and spell out why. Then, pray through the thoughts presented in this psalm, asking God to help each one of you become like the tree that flourishes and bears fruit.