

LIFE LESSONS – Making It Live

David Welsh | “Building the Church” | Matthew 16:18& 28:16-20| Sept. 17-18.2011

God’s Greater Purpose

Do you believe that God can use you in His greater purpose? So many Christians believe that the responsibility of witness is up to the “church”. **Discuss:** Many believe that God is NOT calling us to His greater purpose. This is a common misconception or excuse that many use to keep from stepping out of their comfort zone. We believe that we need to be wise or rich or strong. Not so! **Read: 1 Corinthians 1:26, 27.** Share how you can allow God to use your ordinary, imperfect life to show others how He is re-shaping you for His perfect will.

Imperfections

What does imperfection look like? Share how we like to resist the fact that we are imperfect until we are called to make change in our own life. We are all faced with people who believe they are perfect, but we can quickly tell you the areas they are not perfect, right? These people can’t admit that they are wrong. If anyone is wrong it must be the other person. A name is probably coming to the tip of your tongue right now...your spouse? A co-worker? A relative? A Friend? A Child? But what about you? Have you ever looked in the mirror and pointed the finger at yourself? **Discuss:** Knowing that we are not without sin allows us to know that we are not perfect or without fault. So what does that mean to us as Christians? Because we are to be made blameless in Christ: we know that we must depend upon Christ and must admit our faults. We must pray not only for ourselves but also for each other. Share how you can grow stronger admitting your imperfections. **Discuss** how God uses your weakness to strengthen those around you in love, courage and hope.

Evangelism?

How do you learn about the character of someone? I will bet 90% of you will say, “through spending time with them,” and you will be right. So how do you spend time with God? Do you spend time in prayer? Studying? What about evangelism? You could argue, “I’m not a minister. I can’t evangelize; I didn’t sign up to tell others about God and His perfect will.” Wrong! If you are a born again Christ follower and have given your life fully to Christ you have been called to do just that. **Share** how you can become a student of Jesus and tell all you can about the hope a new life in Christ brings.

Growing Up

What does it mean to grow? As a child how did you grow to be stronger? You were given the vitality of life through food and water. **Discuss** how the same holds true for our spiritual life. As a church it is not only our responsibility to help bring new life in Christ into this world but it is our responsibility to “grow” the toddlers in to mature Christ following Christians. Dead to self, risen in Him. Share how we do this through the study of God’s word, (food of life) fellowship with other Christians (watering of the seed), and service to others (growth of God’s child).

Opposition and Growth

As Christians should we be surprised at opposition or adversity? Why or why not? We are told in scripture that we should not be surprised by it; but, in fact, we should rejoice in it. What happens when you grow as a Christian? When your church becomes stronger for Christ? You become a stronger ally of God, making you more of a target for the enemy. **Discuss:** Today that strength and bond of the Christian community is being challenged, but we are called to “stand against the night.” We are in a civil war as Christians. We must be louder than the non-believers the “stakes are too high not too and the consequences are eternal.” What are these stakes? What are the consequences for those who don’t follow Christ? Where do we fit in as a body of Christ? Where do you fit in as a member of that body? The hands cannot work with out the arms, the feet without the legs. We all have a purpose as a member of the body. Are you a member? Share how you can find your purpose today! We are called to get out of our seats and be the church. When we do that together the gates of Hades will not shake the foundation, because it will be strong and steady on the Rock.

Written by Misty Miller