



# Spring Study Discussion Guide #6

**Sermon Title:** Battlefield Notes

**Biblical Reference:** Various Passages

**Date Preached:** Sunday, February 19th, 2023, @ 11am

**Fall Study Date:** Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023

## Ice Breaker

To get to know each other as a group let us go around the room and have everyone answer the ice breaker question.

Tell us about your most liked or disliked teacher and why?

## Sermon Summary

This past Sunday Pastor Bez shared some of the lessons he learned from the Lord while serving in the ministry. These principles came through the scriptures in the context of the past sixteen years of ministry. In I and II Timothy, Paul gave Timothy some valuable lessons to help him be successful in God's calling for his life. Paul instructed Timothy to pass those same lessons on to others: *2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.* We are going to discuss how we can apply these scriptural principles to our lives and how we can help others to do the same.

## Quick Review

- Were there any insights the Lord showed you or anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? Either from the sermon or from your personal study of this passage?
- How did the Holy Spirit speak to your heart from these passages/lessons?

## My Testimony

- Solomon said, "How much better *is it* to get wisdom than gold!"
- Paul speaking about Jesus said, "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." As we walk with the Lord, through life, we find wonderful treasures of

wisdom. These treasures are often called lessons or principles. Can you share with us an important lesson the Lord has given you?

## Digging Deeper

### **1. Christianity is About Who You Are, Not What You Know**

Many Christians are excited about studying the Bible and learning things about the Lord and His word. This is a good thing! But there are risks associated with getting knowledge without growing in other important areas. Believing you know what is right also makes believe you know what is wrong. Sometimes the new owner of this knowledge wants to show it off. It makes him feel important, like he has made a great personal achievement. He begins to look down his nose at people that do not have the knowledge he has (or thinks he has).

This problem is not unique to Christianity, but Christianity should be unique. We have all heard people arguing about who's team is better. As if being a Cowboy's fan made them a better person than if they were a Bronco's fan. Their team is not what sets them apart.

Peter understood this problem. So, he instructs us to first add to our faith virtue (moral excellence). We should not think we are better because of what we know. Jesus did not come to give us different ideas, *but a different life*. He came to save His people from their sin. Jesus came to make us like Himself. Christianity is about who you are, not what you know.

***Ask a volunteer to read:***

*2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

*2Pe 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;*

*1Co 8:1 Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- What is most significant to you in this passage? Please explain.
- What are some situational examples you can give of Christians who believe what they know makes them better? (Please keep this brief and avoid names).
- What are examples you can give from culture or the world outside the church of people who believe what they know makes them better?

- Have you ever believed you were better because of what you believed?
- Peter says to add to your faith virtue. How would you explain to a new Christian how to go about doing this?
- What can we do as a church to emphasize this truth?

## **2. What is Built on a Cracked Foundation Comes Down**

In the following verses we learn the foundation is the most important part of the building process. The Bible says our foundation is supposed to be Jesus Christ. Christians often try to build great things on suspect foundations. Inevitably, what they build comes crashing down.

You cannot build a good marriage on a lie. You cannot build a godly family on top of hidden sins. You cannot build a stable career by winging it. You cannot build good relationships with God's family by deceit.

***Ask a volunteer to read:***

*Mat 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:*

*Mat 7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*

*Mat 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:*

*Mat 7:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What, in this passage, is the most significant to you? Please explain.
- What example can you give of a person building on the sand?
- Have you experienced personal loss from building on the wrong foundation?
- What motivates a person to build a bad foundation?
- How can we identify the foundation we are building on?

### **3. God is Not Interested in Your Glory**

In the following verses we see the Israelites losing a battle to their enemies. They try to “fetch” God to help them win by bringing the ark to battle. When they went to battle with the ark, they lost again. God was not interested in them winning. He was interested in a right relationship with His people. Many people view God as a means to an end, but God does not exist for man’s glory. **Man exists for God’s Glory.**

*Ask a volunteer to read:*

*1Sa 4:2 And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten before the Philistines: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.*

*1Sa 4:3 And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us to day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.*

*1Sa 4:5 And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.*

*1Sa 4:10 And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen.*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- What are some things we can take from these verses to determine if we have the correct relationship with God?
- How would you explain how this scenario plays out in our time?
- Have you ever had this relationship with God? How did it change?
- What are the consequences of maintaining this view of God?

### **4. The Biggest Failure in Church is a Failure of Matthew 18**

In the following verses we see God’s plan to keep relationships healthy in the church. This principle has been applied to great success in business as well. Many companies include a version of this in their conflict resolution policies. However, it is not natural behavior. We want to distance ourselves from things that displease us. There are unspoken hurts and misunderstandings that fester among God’s people. These problems result in lost relationships

and stagnation in spiritual growth. The great majority of problems that occur in every church is a failure to carry out God's design for healthy relationships.

***Ask a volunteer to read:***

*Mat 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.*

*Mat 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.*

*Mat 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- What, in this passage, is the most significant to you? Please explain.
- Can you identify some of the barriers that prevent us from following verse 18?
- What strategies do/would you use to execute verse 15?
- How can we nurture this culture in our church?
- Is this difficult for you? What has your experience been?
- How could you evaluate our church in this area?

**5. God is the Boss**

In the following verses an awful crime takes place. King David's son, Amnon, violates the sanctity of his sister Tamar. When this information got to King David, he became angry but took no action although God had already given clear instructions on what to do. But David did not carry out God's instructions.

We do not know the reason King David did not act. We do know he allowed his reasoning to conclude that he could make the determination on the best course to follow. There are areas of life where the Lord leaves it up to us as to what course of action to follow and there are other areas where He has already issued the instructions for the correct action. In those areas, we must follow His instructions (especially in regard to moral instruction).

***Ask a volunteer to read:***

*2Sa 13:14 Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.*

*2Sa 13:15 Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.*

*2Sa 13:21 But when king David heard of all these things, he was very wroth.*

*Lev 20:17 And if a man shall take his sister, his father's daughter, or his mother's daughter, and see her nakedness, and she see his nakedness; it is a wicked thing; and they shall be cut off in the sight of their people: he hath uncovered his sister's nakedness; he shall bear his iniquity.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- What, in this passage, is the most significant to you? Please explain.
- Why do think King David did nothing?
- Have you ever faced a situation where God's instructions were clear, but you became weak when you looked at your own life?
- Is it difficult for you to carry out the Lord's instructions regarding members of your own family?
- Why do people forget that they are not the boss?
- How can we prepare for the backlash that comes from carrying out God's orders?
- What can we tell ourselves to overcome our emotional resistance?

## Taking It Home

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they can do because of discovering the truths and principles in the text:

1. What truth or principle in this text was most impactful for you?
2. How did this truth or principal challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
3. How will you put into practice what you have learned today?