

## **A Heart For God**

What does it mean to you when you hear that someone has a heart for something?

As you read through the Bible, especially Psalms and the Gospels, what verses or passages have you found that help you understand what it means to have a heart for God?

Why do you think these verses made an impression on you?

Read John 17 and discuss how this prayer of Jesus describes what it means to have a heart for God.

As you go through the Psalms take note of words that reveal the attributes of God. As an example, when you read Psalm 40 you might write, "He turned to me and heard my cry" - "God is a listener". And you might write, "He lifted me out of the slimy pit" - "God is my rescuer". And then, "He gave me a firm place to stand" - "God is our restorer". As you take notes on God begin your prayers by setting Him before you and adoring Him. Say something like - "Heavenly Father I adore you and love you. You are a listener, You are my rescuer and our restorer..."  
It is healthy and humble to remind yourself who you are talking with before we start asking for something.

For next week write down five or six verses or passages, especially in Proverbs or the Gospels, that remind you why and how to pursue the heart of a learner and be ready to share them with your group.

## **The Heart of a Learner**

What would people say are some of the disciplines or habits in your life?

The word "disciple" means "a disciplined learner". What are verses or passages from the Bible, especially Proverbs and the Gospels, that remind you why and how to pursue the heart of a learner?

Why do you think these verses made an impression on you?

How does 1 Samuel 3 give us insight into what it means to have the heart of a learner?

In light of what you discovered, what action will you take this week to develop the heart of a learner?

As you read the Bible this week, take note of five or six verses or passages that describe, directly or indirectly, who Jesus is and how we can know Him.

### **A Heart to Know Jesus**

What attitudes and actions are needed in order to know someone on a deeper level?

What are verses or passages from the Gospels that describe, directly or indirectly, who Jesus is and how we can know Him?

Why do you think these verses made an impression on you?

What does Colossians 1:13-23 tell us about who Jesus Christ is?

Because of some of these passages or verses, what steps of faith will you take this week for Jesus to be first place in your life?

Take time this week to write down verses or passages in the Bible that emphasize the priority or authority the Scriptures are to have in our life.

### **A Heart for the Scriptures**

How would you describe your attitude about authority?

What are verses or passages in the Bible that emphasize the priority or authority the Scriptures are to have in our life?

Why do you think these verses had an impression on you?

Read 2 Chronicles 34:14-35:1 and compare the different attitudes and actions of the people concerning the Scriptures. When do you tend to have a casual attitude with the Scriptures?

What steps of faith will you begin to take to accept the authority of the Scriptures and be more like Josiah?

This week begin to collect and write down verses or passages that describe what "surrender to the Lordship of Christ" means and why it is important.

### **A Heart to Surrender**

When you hear the word "surrender" what comes to your mind?

What are verses or passages in the Bible that describe what Lordship means and why it is important?

Why do you think these verses make an impression on you?

Read Matthew 16:13-27. What does it mean to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?

Because of some of the verses you went over, what are some actions you will take to sanctify Jesus as Lord of your life?

Take time this week to write down verses or passages, especially in Proverbs and the Gospels, that reveal why and how to pick friends who are concerned about following Christ and making His priorities your priorities.

### **A Heart for Fellowship**

When you were growing up, who were some of your best friends and why were they your friends?

Christian fellowship is not just Christians who happen to be friends, but rather it is friendship centered around Christ and His cause. What are verses or passages, especially in Proverbs and the Gospels, that reveal why and how to pick friends who are concerned about following Christ and making His priorities your priorities?

Why do you think these verses made an impression on you?

When you read 1 Samuel 17 and 18, what would you say was the reason Jonathon gave his friendship to David and what did he do to be a friend?

In order to be a better friend, what actions do you see yourself taking this week because of these verses or passages?

This week, write down verses or passages that describe what God wants and specifically what Jesus' mission or purpose was while He was on earth.

### **A Heart for His Mission**

What are some of the goals and objectives you have had in your life?

What are verses or passages that describe what God wants and specifically what Jesus' mission and purpose was while He was on the earth?

Why do you think these verses made an impression on you?

According to Matthew 28:18-20, what is the reason we are here on earth and should affect every decision we make?

Since being and making disciples of all nations is now our mission, what attitudes and actions do you need to make to fulfill His purpose in your life?

For next week, write down verses and passages that explain why and how God wants us to be the church?

### **A Heart for His Church**

Growing up what did you think about church?

What are verses or passages that explains why and how God wants us to be the church?

Why do you think these verses made an impression on you?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16 and discuss why and how we are to be the church.

What adjustments in your attitude and actions will you make because of some of these verses or passages?

This week write down verses or passages that show us how we can be free from guilt.

### **A Heart Free from Guilt**

How would you describe the difference between condemnation and guilt?

What are verses or passages in the Bible that reveal why and how we should deal rightly with guilt?

Why do you think these verse or passages made an impression on you?

What do 1 John 1:5 - 2:6 and 2 Samuel 11: 1 - 12 tell us about how to be free from guilt and the sorrow it brings.

What further questions do you have about why and how to deal with guilt?

What steps of faith will you take this week to be free from guilt?

This week record verses or passages that describe how to have courage and to overcome doubts.

**A Heart to have Courage and to Overcome Doubt**

What type of situations or events do you tend to feel insecure?

What are verses or passages that reveal to you how you can have courage and overcome doubts?

Why do you think these verses made an impression on you?

What do you see in 1 Kings 19 about the doubts in Elijah's life and how he developed courage?

What doubts are you facing and what steps of faith will you take to be in more harmony with God's Word and build godly confidence?

This week, write down verses or passages that describe why and how to be more forgiving.

**A Heart to be Forgiving**

How would you say you have dealt with previous hurts and how you see this affecting you?

What are verses or passages that describe why and how to forgive?

Why do you think these verses made an impression on you?

Read Matthew 18: 21 -35. What do you see about forgiveness and why we are to forgive.

To forgive is to cancel the debt someone owes us. What steps will you take this week to cancel debts owed or you think are owed to you?

Look for verses that reveal why and how to make wise decisions this week.

**A Heart to Make Wise Decisions**

What do you consider one of the wisest choices you have made and why?

What are verses or passages, especially in Proverbs and the Gospels, that describe why and how to make wiser decisions?

Why do you think these verses made an impression on you?

Read James 3:13-18. What do you learn from this passage about why and how to make decisions that are from God's wisdom?

What steps will you begin to take this week so that you make wiser decisions?

Take notes from the Bible on why and how we should have a heart to expose and explain Christ to those who do not trust Him.

### **A Heart to Expose and Explain Christ**

What is something this week that you saw and told someone else?

What are verses or passages that help you understand why and how to expose people to Christ and explain how they too be free to know Him?

Why do you think these verses made an impression on you?

How does Romans 10: 1 -17 describe the importance of exposing and explaining Christ to as many people as possible?

What steps of faith will you take with each other to expose more people to Christ and explain how they can be free to know Him also?

This week, write down verses and passages that reveal why and how to be a good steward of what God has given to you - time, temple, treasures and talents.

### **A Heart for Good Stewardship**

What is stewardship and of what are you a steward?

What are verses and passages, especially in Proverbs and the Gospels, that reveal why and how we are to be good stewards?

Why do you think these verses made an impression on you?

What do you discover in Malachi 3:7- 18 about stewardship and why it is important?

Because of what you have studied in the Scriptures, what attitudes and actions will you adjust to be in harmony with God and His Word?

### **A Heart of a Servant**

What would you say is the difference between serving and being a servant?

As you read the Bible, what are verses or passages that reveal why and how to develop the heart of a servant?

Why do you think these verses made an impression on you?

When you read about the life of Rebekah in Genesis 24 and the life of Joseph in Genesis 37 and 39 - 50, what do you see about why and how to pursue the heart of a servant?

What further questions do you have about developing the heart of a servant?

From the verses and passages you have gone over, what steps will you take this week to have the heart of a servant?

This week look up verses and passages that reveal why and how to pursue a heart of purity.

### **A Heart of Purity**

Where would you say you have received most of your ideas about sex and how to express your sexuality?

God is not silent about the value of our sexuality and purity. What are verses and passages that reveal why and how to pursue purity, as well as the consequences and benefits of pursuing God's instruction for purity?

Why do you think these verses have made an impression on you?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1 - 12 and 2 Timothy 2:20 - 24. What do you see here as far as attitudes and actions to have so that you are pursuing God's idea of purity?

What further questions do you have about sexuality and purity?

What steps of faith will you take this week to please the Lord and be pure?

This coming week write down verses and passages that describe why and how to have a heart to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

### **A Heart to be Filled with the Holy Spirit**

What have you heard or been taught about who the Holy Spirit is and how to experience His power for ministry?

Though all Christians have the Holy Spirit, not all Christians are filled with the Holy Spirit. What are verses and passages in the Bible that reveal why and how to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Why do you think these verses made an impression on you?

What do the following verses tell us about why and how to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Ephesians 5:15 -18

John 7: 37 - 39

Acts 2: 38

Acts 5: 32

Luke 11: 1 - 13

Galatians 5:14

What further questions do you have about being filled with the Holy Spirit?

In light of what we have gone over, what steps of faith will you take in order to daily be filled with the Spirit?