

Small Group Homework

For the week of April 2, 2017

GETTING STARTED

What's something you're looking forward to as the weather gets warmer?

LOOKING BACK

Looking back on Sunday, is there anything that stood out to you, confused you, or challenged you?

MY STORY

1. Sunday's message focused on resentment in the context of a marriage (David and Michal). What are some non-marriage relationships in your life that need to be protected from resentment?
2. Resentment is that bitter feeling we carry when we think we have been treated unfairly. How do you deal with bitterness and resentment?

DIGGING DEEPER

When we read "contempt" or "despise" in the book of 2 Samuel, we are reading translations of a Hebrew word, *בָּזָאׁוּ* *baw-zaw'*, which literally means to undervalue something. All three uses of *baw-zaw'* are in the verses below (2 Samuel 6:16, 12:9).

2 Samuel 6:16 (NLT) *But as the Ark of the LORD entered the City of David, Michal, the daughter of Saul, looked down from her window. When she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she was filled with contempt [baw-zaw'] for him.*

1. What might have caused Michal to feel resentful like she was treated unfairly by David?
2. Why do you think resentment leads people to undervalue others?

2 Samuel 12:9 (NLT) *[God's message to David after his affair with Bathsheba and murder of her husband, Uriah] Why, then, have you despised [baw-zaw'] the word of the LORD and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife. From this time on, your family will live by the sword because you have despised [baw-zaw'] me by taking Uriah's wife to be your own.*

1. God's accusation against David is that David undervalued God and His word. How does our sin express contempt for God and His word?
2. God's gift of forgiveness through Jesus Christ shows that He chooses not to resent us. Why would He make the sacrifice of Christ for us?

3. What does God's treatment of us teach us about how we should treat others?

Resentment and jealousy have been around since the first brothers recorded in Scripture, Cain and Abel.

Genesis 4:3-5 (NLT) ³ When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵ but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

1. Why do you think God accepted Abel's offering, but didn't accept Cain's?
2. Cain felt resentment as if he was being treated unfairly. What issues in the world today can you think of that seem rooted in resentment (people feeling bitterness over being treated unfairly)?
3. What is the difference between fairness and equality?

Genesis 4:6-7 (NLT) ⁶ "Why are you so angry?" the LORD asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected?" ⁷ You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."

1. How can sin control us when we give in to resentment?
2. Resentment feels like strength, but it is a false strength. What are the real strengths available to disciples of Jesus?
3. What do we need to do in order to defend ourselves against resentment?

BRINGING IT HOME: Just as God operates as one God in three Persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), He has designed us to live in relationships. Resentment kills relationships. The good news is that God has given us everything we need to repair our relationship with Him and with each other. It starts by humbly admitting our sinful tendencies, receiving forgiveness through Christ, and submitting to His lordship over our lives. If you are struggling with resentment, prayerfully take your eyes off yourself and the person who hurt you, and shift your focus to Christ.

PRAYERS: