



Community Group Discussion Guide

August 31, 2014

Week 2 | Pull the Tooth
Hebrews 12:1-3

Introduction

God desires for each one of us to live life to its fullest, to live a life that's thriving. Jesus expressed this desire as his reason for coming to earth, when he said this in the 10th chapter of John's gospel... "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." This series takes a look at 9 bed-rock principles that go a long way toward making this life possible.

Questions for Study

1. Think about a time in your life when – to make progress towards a goal you had – you needed to eliminate other things from your life that distracted you from that goal. Describe the situation. Was it easy or difficult to eliminate these things? What provided motivation to do this?
2. A goal of this series is to lead people further into the "thriving life" that Jesus offers (John 10:10). Briefly list a few things people commonly associate with a thriving life.
3. How do common ideas about a thriving life compare with the fundamental definition of the thriving life Tim mentioned on Sunday – "life lived with Jesus at its center"? (For a few verses that talk about this understanding of the thriving life, see especially Psalm 16:2, 5, 8; Philippians 3:7-11; and John 17:3.)
4. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. Given our definition of a thriving life, why is it so important to "fix our eyes on Jesus"?
5. From this passage, what distractions compete with us fixing our eyes on Jesus?
6. Read Luke 10:38-42. What kept Martha from fixing her eyes on Jesus? What lessons are there for your own life on dealing with neutral or otherwise-good distractions that keep you from experiencing the presence of Jesus?
7. Read Genesis 4:1-8. What kept Cain from responding to God correctly? What lessons are there for your own life from this passage?
8. Application questions:
 - What is one practical step you need to take to "fix your eyes" on Jesus?
 - What sorts of distractions might keep you from following through with this?
 - What will you do to deal with this distraction?
9. What else – either from the sermon or something you read in these Bible passages – were you hoping to discuss? Consider especially questions you still have and/or major take-aways from these passages of the Bible.