

ACCOUNTABLE IN ALL THINGS

FACILITATOR GUIDE

NOTE TO FACILITATORS: Don't forget to pray for the members of your group during the week! Don't just pray WITH them during group time, but pray FOR them. Intercede on their behalf as God deals with them daily.

Text or email this reminder to your group this week:

REMEMBER: "God wants to fellowship with you as much today as He does on Sunday morning!"

—Pastor Chris

CPC HAPPENINGS... (Leaders, please share with your group. We want to do everything to keep people connected to the entire church family.)

There's lots of things happening at Connection Point!

VISION SUNDAY

Sunday, January 31

SPECIAL EVENT: NIGHT OF PRAYER

Sunday, January 31 6 PM

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 7 For more info and to register, visit yourcpc.church/events

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Sunday, February 21, 1:30-3:30 PM Register now online for childcare. yourcpc.church/events

KIDS NIGHT OUT

Even kids need a night out! Parents, drop off your kids Friday, February 12 at 5:30 pm at the Jackson Civic Center for food, fun, games, prizes, and oh so much more! Dinner is pizza, drinks and of course, dessert. Cost is \$5 per child at the door with cash or card. All kids ages 4yrs to 6th grade are welcome! Register your kids online at yourcpc.church/events

DON'T MISS ANYTHING HAPPENING AT CPC!

GOD—HE'S NOT JUST FOR SUNDAYS ANYMORE

What kind of things are you interested in?

How often do you get to spend time with your interests or hobbies?

What kind of things is God interested in? [You. People. Your growth process.]

Did you know that you are the greatest desire of God's heart? He has loved you since before you were born! He knew who you would become. He knows everything good about you...and He knows the bad stuff too. His greatest desire is to see you become more like Jesus in your attitudes and how you deal with the world around you.

Is there a difference in the way your family interacts with each other in the car driving to church and way they act when they arrive?

Pastor Chris mentioned how we often "compartmentalize" God and only serve Him on Sundays while at church.

Do you have a special time that you meet alone with God other than Sunday morning at church?

In his sermon, Pastor Chris said, "No wonder so many doubt our Christianity when we live holy one hour a week and live like the devil the rest of the week!"

If Jesus visited you in person and announced that you have been selected as the person He is going to spend a whole week with, how would it change the way you...

- deal with your boss or co-workers?
- wait at long checkout lines at the store?
- treat the homeless beggar on the corner with the sign?
- discipline your children?
- speak to your spouse?
- watch tv?

1 Corinthians 3:16—Don't you yourselves know that you are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

What does it mean to be the temple of God? [God's Holy Spirit dwells within us. He does go with us everywhere. He does see how we treat others.]

In the Old Testament, the temple of God was where the Holy Spirit lived. Before the priest could enter the place (the Holy of Holies) where God's Presence was, they had to be cleansed by the blood of a sacrificed lamb. Because God was holy, the place where He lived had to be holy as well. Now, instead of a building, God dwells in us.

What makes it possible for God's Spirit to live in us? [The blood of Jesus.]

How should the thought of God living in us change the way we interact with our world?

What happens when we sin? [We all fail God. We are imperfect people. It is only through the blood of Jesus that we find forgiveness for our sins.]

Asking Jesus in cleanses the “temple,” making way for God to reside. When we sin, God has to remove Himself. You may experience a feeling of God being distant. You may find it hard to follow Him. You may find it difficult to pray—like God is out of reach. But know that God hasn’t completely left the picture! No He is just standing by waiting for you to ask Him to forgive you and help you to remain faithful to Him. Don’t keep God shut out of His temple!! Open your heart’s door and let Him in!

MATURITY LEVELS

What are some characteristics that differ between a mature child and an immature child?

1 Corinthians 3:1-3—For my part, brothers and sisters, I was not able to speak to you as spiritual people but as people of the flesh, as babies in Christ. ² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, since you were not yet ready for it. In fact, you are still not ready, ³ because you are still worldly. For since there is envy and strife among you, are you not worldly and behaving like mere humans?

According to Paul what is the difference between an “adult” (mature) Christian and a baby (immature) Christian? [HINT: It has nothing to do with how long you’ve been a Christian.]

Some immature characteristics are:

1. Always wanting our **WAY**.
2. **BLAMING** God for difficult outcomes.
3. Telling God how to do His **JOB** rather than trusting Him.
4. Turning to **PASTORS** for answers before going to God’s Word themselves.
5. Refusing to admit their own **FAULTS** while pointing out the faults of others.
6. **JEALOUSY** of others.
7. Unable to **FORGIVE** others.
8. Always “**CONSUMING**” from the Body of Christ and never contributing to the Body.
9. Always making decisions based on **CONVENIENCE** rather than God’s Will.
10. Keeping the **GOOD NEWS** of Jesus to yourself.

According to Pastor Chris' message we are accountable for our own growth and maturity level.

Who might we be tempted to blame for our lack of understanding and spiritual growth? [FAMILY—for keeping us from our time with God. THE PREACHER—for not being easy to understand. WORK for making us too tired to attend church or study groups. FRIENDS—for leading us astray. OUR OWN LACK OF UNDERSTANDING—"I just can't learn." This is not a valid excuse.]

We are also accountable for each other.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9—What then is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed, and each has the role the Lord has given. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So, then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's coworkers. You are God's field, God's building.

Paul asks the question: Who is Apollos and who am I?

Verse 5—...each has the **ROLE** the Lord has given.

What does it mean that "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth..?" [We each have a role to perform in helping bring others to Christ. You just do what you can. Someone else will do what they are supposed to, and God will make it happen!]

How does it make you feel to know that all the work is not up to you alone? [Relief! You have to just be faithful to do your part. You can't force others to come to Christ. God does the calling and saving!]

BEWARE: CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

1 Corinthians 3:10-13—According to God's grace that was given to me, I have laid a foundation as a skilled master builder, and another builds on it. But each one is to be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ.

¹² If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, ¹³ each one's work will become obvious. For the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work.

What happens to a building when an unskilled person builds carelessly on the foundation? **[The building will probably not be safe or stand for very long—especially in a storm.]**

What is the foundation Paul says we are to build our lives and help others to build upon? **[Christ is our foundation.]**

What kind of building material does Paul say we can use to ? **[Gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw.]**

But when the fire comes to test the integrity of the building, what materials will last and which will burn up? **[Gold, silver, and costly stones will last. Wood, hay or straw will be burned up—just ask the three little pigs!!!]**

Now the question is, when speaking in spiritual terms, what is considered gold, silver, costly stones? And what is wood, hay, or straw? **[We know that gold, silver, costly stones are hard materials that can last for eternity. So symbolically building with these means doing those things that are ETERNAL. Wood, hay and straw are those things that are TEMPORARY.]**

Mark only those listed that are ETERNAL:

- _____ holding the hand of the elderly
- _____ educational degrees
- _____ drive a new car
- _____ leading others to Christ
- _____ mentoring at-risk kids
- _____ a healthy bank account
- _____ family who are all born-again Christians
- _____ legacy of compassion
- _____ mortgage paid off
- _____ winning trophies
- _____ giving to ministries that help the needy
- _____ applause of men
- _____ helpful teaching of God's Word

What are you currently doing that God will judge as eternally significant?

Whose life are you investing in for eternity?

PRAYER TIME

- Thank God for coming to live inside your heart and for making an eternal difference in your life.
- Ask God to help you fulfill the purpose that He has just for you. Ask Him to reveal His will for your future.
- Pray that God would help you to grow as a mature Christian, always trusting God for the outcome of your Divine destiny.
- Pray that God will put you in the path of someone who needs spiritual encouragement and with whom you can share your testimony.