

January 16, 2011

MAKING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING

Luke 2:41-52

INTENTION:

Group members will discover that when it comes to what is important in life, they must make their actions follow their values. It is easy to crowd out the important things with the urgent things. But the story of Jesus in the temple indicates the need to make God's priorities our priorities.

INTRODUCTION:

This section introduces the idea of making choices.

1. Tell the group "Life is filled with making choices, so we are going to start off our time together here forcing you to make some hard choices"
2. Read the following options one at a time to your group, asking a few people to answer each question and give an explanation of why they made the choice that they did:

Would you rather...

Talk like Yoda	or	Breathe like Darth Vader
Communicate only in Pig Latin	or	Communicate only in sign language
Bring about lasting world peace	or	End all world hunger and disease
Be hated for something you are	or	Loved for something you are not
Know the exact time of your death	or	Die unexpectedly anytime between five years from now and ten years from now
Become a talented musician	or	Become a talented poet
Try everything and succeed at nothing	or	Try only one thing and be a success

3. How can you tell what's important in someone else's life?
4. Can people tell what's important in your life? How?

INVESTIGATION

This section uncovers the priorities of Jesus, even at an early age.

1. As the leader read the story of Jesus in the temple found in Luke 2:41-52 ahead of time. Practice telling the story with as many details as possible ahead of time
 - a. Say: I'm going to tell you the story of Jesus as a middle schooler found in Luke 2:41
 - b. Without using notes tell the story to your group
 - c. Ask a volunteer to re-tell the story to the group
 - d. Ask group member to add any details they think may have been left out by you or the volunteer
 - e. Ask a volunteer to read the story out loud from Luke 2:41-52
 - f. Ask group member to point out any additional details they discovered from reading the story
2. Ask: What do you think was the most important point to be gained from this story?
3. Ask: Obviously Jesus was under a lot of pressure to listen to His parents, what do you think motivated Him to go to the temple instead of going with His parents? Why was being in His Father's house such a priority? (At only 12 years old Jesus may have just been realizing who he was, He was not just accountable to his human parents, but ultimately to His and our Heavenly Father)
4. Ask: How do you think Jesus decided what was important in His life?

INTERACTION

In this section group members explore how it is they make decisions in the midst of conflicting demands

1. Say: Imagine everyday you made choices about how you are going to live your life based on the following verse:
2. Ask two volunteers to read the following verse:
[Matthew 6:20](#)
3. Ask: According to this verse, what would be your top priority?
4. Ask: Think about your typical day: If lived according to these priorities, what might change in the way you lived your life tomorrow?
5. If you have access to a whiteboard, or a poster board draw the following illustration: (otherwise just describe it to the group)

	Urgent	Not-Urgent
Important	Important And Urgent	Important And Not Urgent
Not- Important	Not Important And Urgent	Not Important And Not Urgent

6. Explain: Most tasks that we fill our lives with can fit in one of these four quadrants.
 - a. Have the group discuss how to decide which quadrant a task would fall under?
For example, where would getting a doctor's checkup go?
(Ask for specific examples from their lives)
 - b. When your life gets out of balance, which quadrant do you choose to prioritize?
 - c. How do you think this happens?

IMPLEMENTATION

This section helps your group deal with the nitty-gritty of prioritizing their lives God's way

1. Ask: How can you make decisions that align what you say is important with what you prioritize in your daily schedule?
2. If you were going to prioritize God, how would you do it? What would you have to eliminate?
3. Ask a volunteer to read the following verse: Matthew 6:33 and then read the following quote

Life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you only spend it once. ~Lillian Dickson

4. Ask: what does the verse and the quote have in common?
5. Allowing group members to share one change they want to make in their activities to reflect their priorities.
6. Close by having group members pray for each other.