

October 11/12, 2008
"I'm All In!"

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1 Peter 2:2-3 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

Hebrews 5:14 Solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

When Jesus called His first disciples, it was an "all or nothing" venture. He attracted HUGE crowds of course, but when it got down to the "tough stuff" many of them scattered quickly...only a committed few were will to pay the high price of following Jesus. So what kind of followers are we? And what kind of followers are we reproducing? The time is short – we need all hands on deck!

What price would I pay in order to grow deep in my walk with Christ?

Quest Group Discussion Questions

History (Making it Personal)

1. Talk about a time in your life when you tackled a HUGE goal that required dedication, discipline, and tenacity to accomplish. What was it – and how did you feel upon completion?
2. When you were in the "training" process, how did you keep yourself motivated? Why did you not give up?
3. Talk for a few moments about the lack of discipline that many people say will be the down-fall of our culture. Why is our education drop-out-rate so high, why do so many quit on marriage, family etc? What is the root behind our obesity epidemic? Why has delayed gratification become a nasty concept?
4. Talk about your experience and exposure to the "spiritual disciplines." Why have these sometimes been viewed as legalistic or unnecessary? If we dedicated the same energy to other areas of our lives as we dedicate to the spiritual disciplines, what would be the result?

Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

5. Contrast 1 Peter 2:2-3 with 1 Corinthians 3:1-2 & Hebrews 5:11-14 and talk about the expectations we should have about growing deep in our understanding and relationship to Christ. Why do we talk about the disciplines as though they are legalistic?
6. Read Colossians 2:6-7 and Ephesians 4:12-16 and talk about the steps that are necessary in "growing up."
7. Read 2 Timothy 2:2 and talk about the role of mentoring and reproduction. Who poured life into you as a new believer? Did it happen at all? Are you prepared to pour your life into another? What power would there be in our church for the younger and older to partner in the walk toward maturity.
8. Talk honestly about the cost of discipleship. Read Luke 14:25-35 and talk about the price we need to pay to follow Christ. What do you think of Bonhoeffer's famous quote "discipleship is a call to die...?"
9. Follow me – it sounds so simple – why is it so difficult. What do you think are the key barriers to spiritual maturity? How can we as a church family help people overcome these? Send us your comments!

Taking It Home (Application)

10. Is there some discipline you need to bring back into your life on a very practical level? Do you need to exercise more, sleep more, eat less, manage your money better? Why not share your goal, and make yourself accountable to a friend who will help you keep your goal?
11. In the spiritual disciplines – make a commitment today – that you will grow deeper – and choose one area that you want to focus on for the next 30 days. Remember, this is a marathon, not a sprint – how can you set a habit or pattern that will carry you for the "long-haul"?
12. Finally, take some time this week for some quiet self-examination in prayer before God. Have you matured in your spiritual life – or have you been content to stay in diapers??!! Is it time for you to take the plunge – to step into ministry – to step into service – to begin to reproduce your faith in the lives of others?? Why not?