

## LIFE GROUP VIRTUAL OUTLINE #3 Series - This is the Way!

### Title: The Three Important Questions Critical to our Relationship with God Worship – 10 mins. max.

Someone leads a song of worship or play a song from You Tube while everyone else will be on mute.)

Options:

- Ask participants to share testimonies of answered prayers.
- Ask someone to read a passage of scripture Philippians 3:7-11 NIV, Galatians 5:1-6 NKJV

### Welcome – ICE BREAKER 15 mins. max. Tough Questions to Ask

Instructions: Ask the following questions to the group and the person who first answers the most questions, wins the game:

1. Which one came first, the egg or the chicken? (*Ans. In the Bible, God created the animals (male and female) first and commanded them to multiply.*)
2. What is the longest word in the dictionary? (*Ans. su·per·ca·li·fra·gil·is·tic·ex·pi·a·li·do·cious – meaning extraordinarily good; wonderful.*)
3. What is the eight color of the rainbow? (*Ans. None because there are only seven.*)
4. Who in the Bible is the oldest man who lived and what was his name? (*Ans. Methuselah, 969 yrs. old.*)
5. What restaurant that has a clown as it's mascot? (*Ans. McDonald's*)

COMMENTS: Let's do 5 questions as this takes time.

**Discussion Question:** *Has your love for God grew stronger or weaker despite the many challenges that come into our lives?*

### Word – 30 mins. max

**Intro:** Before couples decided to get married, they have to ask each other tough questions. This process is critical to instill harmony in their marriage. In the same way, we need to answer 3 important questions which are critical to our relationship with God.

### Main Text: Philippians 3:7-11 NIV

Paul was talking to the Gentile believers in Philippians who were told by so-called believers in Jesus the need for them to be circumcised & to be saved to become acceptable to God. He went on to share his knowledge in Judaism and considered it all "garbage" or worth nothing in comparison to knowing Christ. Paul told the Philippians that he gave everything up for the sake of knowing Christ. In doing so, he gained access to the resurrection power and life of Christ.

**Q. Has there been a time when you have given up something for the sake of someone?**

**The three important questions we have to ask ourselves that are critical to our relationship with God are:**

#### 1. Do we really want an intimate relationship with a holy God?

*"You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions." Hebrews 1:9*

The verse talks about choosing and pursuing a right standing with God than disobeying His commands. Jesus even said in John 14:15, *"If you love me, keep my commands."*

**Q: Has your love for God grew stronger or weaker despite the many challenges that come into our lives?**

#### 2. Do we really want sin out of our life?

*"Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. Hebrews 3:12-13*

Sins deceive us and will cause our hearts to be calloused. When that happens, even if we feel a conviction in our hearts, we take them for granted. This gives us a sense of false assurance that what we have done is "not really wrong." Therefore, it will keep us from having a loving relationship with God. Sins break our fellowship with God.

**Q: What are some of the things we have done in the past that broke our fellowship with a Holy God?**

"And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:30-32 NLT

**Q: What negative character traits do you want to change and/or improve?**

**3. Do we fully trust Jesus?**

*"Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16*

We are to trust the finished work of Christ on the cross. Let us rest from our self-effort and futile strivings as Christ who knew no sin was made a sin for us so we can be made righteous in Him. We need to simply trust and believe that Jesus died on the cross for you and me., Receive His forgiveness from all our sins and live a life leaning on Christ's grace and power.

**Q: Who among your friends are you closest with and why?**

**Q: What do you think is the most important factor for this relationship to last?**

**Conclusion:** Life in Christ is restful because we do not live with the weight of our sins and the tyranny of the oppressive control of our carnal, sinful nature. As we trust and rest in God, He will help us to live beyond the flesh/carnality.

**Work (Application) – 5mins. Final thoughts**

We have known and experience God's forgiveness through the death of Christ on the cross when we believe and confess Jesus as Lord., We will live in victory over the sinful flesh in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the resurrection power of God present among us when we yield to His presence.

**Closing Prayer: 5mins.**

Please take time to pray for one another. Ask for specific prayer requests. Assign people to take turns in prayer.