



STUDY GUIDE

RECALIBRATE 1.21.2018

[start with prayer]

This year at CVC, we will be focusing on prayer. We want to raise the emphasis of prayer in our church and in our lives. So, for this year we will be starting our sermon-based study guide with prayer in addition to closing with prayer.

Spend a few minutes praying as a group on the following topics:

- That this year will be a renewed emphasis on prayer in your life, in your group, and in our church.
- That our church will continue to be LifeHouses.
- Praise God for his provision in our lives and in the life of the church.
- Any group-specific needs.
- For Pastor Chad as he continues to heal from his recent neck surgery.

Missions Prayer Focus this week:

- Brian's Safehouse in Appalachia

[set up]

Was there anything in particular that stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday?

This week Pastor Josh talked about exhortation, which is coming along side someone to help them out of a sin. According to Walter Elwell, exhortation is a “translation of a Greek word literally meaning “a calling of someone alongside to help.” Its primary meaning in the NT is the urging of someone to do something, more specifically some ethical course of action.” Another way of defining exhortation is this: “having *that* conversation with someone.” Have you ever had a time when someone—whether friend, family, colleague, or stranger—exhorted you and you were greatly loved by it?

Has there been a time when you exhorted someone else and it turned out for their good?

[digging deeper]

Read the following verses: 1 Timothy 4:13; Romans 12:6-8; James 5:19-20; Galatians 6:1-2; 1 John 5:16. On a piece of paper, write out truths from these passages about exhortation. Is there something that surprises you about exhortation? Is there something that challenges you?

When talking about exhortation, was there a person that came to mind that the Holy Spirit wants you to have *that* conversation with? What is holding you back from having that conversation?

Read Revelation 2:12-17.

Scripture says that Satan has set traps in every area of our lives, especially in church! What are those traps that so easily ensnare us? What are ways to avoid the traps from Satan? What role does exhortation have in living free from the traps of Satan?

The white stone of verse 17 symbolizes the assurance of salvation one experiences when they obey the commands of God. In the ancient world, a judge would have both a black and a white stone. The black stone was to signify a guilty verdict, and a white stone an innocent verdict. Jesus says that he is *giving* us a white stone with our new name on it. This is to remind followers of Jesus that our salvation is secure and we are not guilty before God. Is it easy or hard for you to feel secure in your salvation? What do you do to remind yourself that God sees you as innocent through Jesus? Is there something you can share with the group that could be a help for them?

The “teaching of Balaam” in this passage is religious syncretism, or seeing Jesus as a way of salvation rather than *the* way of salvation. What are the religious perspectives, worldviews, or values that tempt us away from the truth that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life? For example, sometimes people think that having lots of money is the means to “salvation.”

[living it out]

Has your group scheduled a time to serve through CVCMission’s Big 10? You can find more information at cvcmissions.org.

[end with prayer]

Remember that Pastor Josh encouraged us to pray this year: “Lord, help me to be fearless and faithful to have *that* conversation with _____.” Allow a few minutes during the concluding prayer time for people in the group to pray that prayer.

Next, spend a few minutes praying as a group for the people that you need to exhort.