



**SMALL GROUP LEADERS: - Remember the C of COMMISSION**

Please pray with us during this key season of the January to help people “connect” to life in Christ. Connection means more than attendance; it means beginning a journey that **follows Jesus**. Please pray for people to connect, and pray that God will bring more people to your small group or allow you to help people find the group that is best for them.

**ALSO:** You will hopefully receive a package with “Ask Me About My Small Group” buttons and invitational cards. Please wear a button during January weekend services at your campus, and help foster conversations of connection with the cards, even if your group is full. **MOST PEOPLE IN OUR SERVICES ARE NOT IN A GROUP. Let's change that!**

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**Ice Breaker (Choose one to answer):**

- \*What are your hopes and fears for 2018?
- \*What is your take on New Year's resolutions?

**Into the Word:**

\*If Matt had to give a shorter version of this sermon, what would you be sure to tell him not to leave out?

**Read Titus 3:1-9**

a) What parts of Paul's instructions would have been most difficult to follow in the first century? In our times?

*Teaching Tip: Remember Paul wrote when the Emperor claimed to be God. Additionally, the culture was pagan and Christianity was a minority religion.*

b) How are the truths of verses 4-7 crucial to being able to be the type of person Paul prescribes?

c) If God is sovereign and we have the "hope of eternal life" (v. 7b), then how does that knowledge help us do the following:

- Do good works without earthly rewards?
- Show kindness and gentleness to all people?
- Not slander or quarrel?

d) Where might God be inviting you to repent?

### **Apply the Word:**

- a) Is your life foundation more based on your circumstances or God's sovereignty?
- b) How have you experienced the truth that God's plans for your life are often not your plans for your life? Have come to realize this is okay and not a bad thing?
- c) The sermon encouraged to make pre-decisions about HOW we will respond to potential circumstances in our future. Share some pre-decisions you need to make. Use the following categories as a guide:
- Pre-decide HOW you will respond when tempted?
  - Pre-decide HOW you will respond when a crisis occurs?
  - Pre-decide HOW you will respond when you receive a blessing?
  - Pre-decide HOW you will respond around a difficult person?

### **Prayer:**

*Complete this sentence prayer:*

*God, give me Your strength to be a certain type of person this year; a person who \_\_\_\_\_ no matter what happens.*

**Leaders: Please ask your group to PRAY for opportunities to talk to people, and that God would help you help people CONNECT to small groups, Baptism, ministry teams, etc. These steps of involvement will help people grow closer to Jesus.**

### ***Please commit to praying as a group for the following:***

- *That God would give us open doors with lost people so we can help them find Jesus.*
- *That God would help us connect more people **to Small Groups** to help them Grow.*
- *That God would help us live for Him this year, and throw off anything holding us back.*