

Session 3: How to Cross a Threshold

Opening:

Once everyone has gathered, set a timer for 1 minute of silence.

After 1 minute, read this verse out loud, slowly and clearly.

"Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart,
who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways." (Psalm 119:1-3)

Enjoy one more minute of silence.

Ask the group to listen to the verse again, and choose one word or phrase that resonates with them, no explanation necessary.

Read the verse again:

"Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart,
who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways." (Psalm 119:1-3)

Invite the group members to say their word or verse (can go around in a circle).

Read this prayer:

Our hearts are pulled toward many things, O God. Toward beauty and rest and wholeness, but also, we are ashamed to say, toward ugliness in thought and speech, toward selfishness, toward pride. Forgive us, gracious God, and in your mercy draw us to you so that we may seek you with our whole hearts and walk in your ways. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Read aloud this quote from the book:

"I am not in charge of which doors will be presented to me through my life. I may not be able to force a closed door to open. I am not in charge of what's behind the door. But I am in charge of one dynamic: when a door is open, I get to choose how I will respond. Sometimes it's what you do after the door opens that makes all the difference." (p.134).

Discussion:

Once you've made a choice (for example, about where to go to college or which job to take) do you dwell on the "what ifs"? Do you wonder what life would be like if you had made a different choice? When your choice reveals some struggle, do you beat yourself up for making "the wrong choice," or do you see it as part of the deal?

Here's what John Ortberg says (taken from pages 136)

Sometimes, we make a decision and say that "we don't have peace about it." That means that we assume that all of our "godly" decisions will necessarily bring about inner peace.

However, as Ortberg writes,
"The sequence in the Bible is usually not
Calling