

AUGUST 2009: God's Big Arrow AUGUST 16

WHY?

In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19Therefore go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

GROWING a big

1. Bible reading and Journaling
2. Weekly Worship and Teaching in the Word
3. Gathering in groups to share, serve and build each other up

UNLEASHING time, talent and treasure

1. Make the above 3 things non negotiables in your calendar this month

time



2. Do 1 selfless act at church, work and home this week

talent



3. Prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give financially for 2010

treasure



Week 3- Commencing Sunday August 16th

Theme: Conviction is... what I believe and what I do

Jesus used several metaphors to show the importance of holding right convictions. In Matthew 7:24-27, right convictions enable our lives to weather the inevitable storms, whereas wrong convictions cause destruction and loss. In Matthew 13:18-23, Jesus explains that our receptivity to God's truth will directly impact our fruitfulness in life. A conviction is not just as simple as holding a belief; a conviction is a belief that we bet our life on! Convictions only become such solid, trustworthy beliefs through a process of faith, doubt and time. Faith is experienced as we believe what God says; doubt allows us to take our honest questions to God and each other so that our beliefs are refined and road-tested; and time is the ingredient which allows God to demonstrate his faithfulness to us.

There is an old hymn that starts with the following words:

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.*

We have great, sound reasons to be firm and strong in our convictions about following Jesus and all that this might mean for us! The invitation this week is to fasten your anchor to the rock!



Bible Readings Week of August 16

Day 1- Read 1 Timothy 1

Day 2- Read 1 Timothy 2

Day 3- Read 1 Timothy 3

Day 4- Read 1 Timothy 4

Day 5- Read 1 Timothy 5 and 6



Group Questions Week of August 16

Call: What has God been saying to you through your journaling this week?

Character: Are you currently (or can you recall a time of) trusting in a promise from God or Scripture, even when initially you aren't seeing the outcome. What helps you to hold onto this belief?

Conviction: Are your beliefs about God and his character changing over time? Can you give an example of a current way in which God is transforming your ideas or your relationship with him? What is helping you come to a healthier, life-giving conviction?

Charism: How do your convictions translate into being 'Good News' to your brothers and sisters at Church, or your workmates?

Covenant: How secure do you feel in God's love as you seek to be more faithful to what you know of living the 'Christian life'? What helps you to 'rest in God's love' even as you 'wrestle in faith'?