

Small Group Discussion Outline



Planning for Success

Success in anything in life does not 'just happen.'

To be successful in any area of life; business, relationships, sport, leisure activities etc, we need to plan for it.

Success in the Kingdom of God is no different. The difference is that success in the things of God - in His plans and purposes - comes not through our own cleverness or strength, but by committing to doing God's work, God's way. This means putting into place things which will ensure we are the kinds of people through whom God delights to work.



Read: 1 Chronicles 28:9-10



What are the four instructions David gives Solomon?

David lets Solomon in on the secret to success in the Kingdom of God. They're keys that David recognised and committed to from an early age when he was a shepherd boy. These principles made David the kind of person in whom God delighted and he was chosen by God to become king over Israel.

From tending sheep to ruling a nation. David knew these keys worked and now desired to impart them to his son in order that he too may have success in fulfilling God's plans and purposes.

The four keys David gives Solomon are: Relationship, Service, Pursuit, and Work.

Relationship (acknowledge) with God, Serve God, Pursue (seek) God, and "Do the work".



Is there any significance to the order in which these keys occur?

Why is our relationship with God so important?

Why is serving God so important?

Why is pursuing God so important?

RELATIONSHIP

The very first key we read is to "acknowledge God." Some Bibles translate the same word as "know God."



What does it mean to "know God"?

How can we get to know God better?

Success in fulfilling the things God has created us to do starts with a relationship with God.

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SERVICE

David tells Solomon to “serve [God] with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind”

The Hebrew word translated here as “serve” is a word used both for worship and for slavery.



How are the words serve, worship, and slavery related in this context?

Is God a slave master?

What aspect of slavery relates to worshipping God?

Slaves in ancient Israel could own property, were often treated as members of the family, were entrusted with great responsibility, in many cases were paid, and, in Israel, were granted freedom in a regular celebration called the “Year of Jubilee.” Many slaves would choose not to leave their positions at this time and would commit themselves to their master. It is in this context that the words worship and slavery can be interchanged. By choosing to remain in their positions, a position of submission, but one with greater blessings than most people experienced, these slaves demonstrated “wholehearted devotion” and a “willing mind.”



How does this concept of slavery relate to serving and worshipping God?

Where/how can we serve/worship God?

PURSUE

The third key David gives Solomon is to “seek” God.



What do you think it means to “seek” God?

How can we do this?

To seek is to pursue. It is an active and passionate thing. Seeking God means things like asking and consulting Him in different matters, it means studying and searching Him so that we know what He’s like and what He requires of us, it means relying on Him and inviting Him and His ways into every area of our lives.

WORK

The final key for success is to “do the work.”

It’s not some great spiritual mystery or some secret gem of wisdom. God’s Word clearly reveals that we are to be an example to those around us. Christians are God’s ambassadors which means our task is to promote the Kingdom of God.



What kinds of things are our “work” for God?

Do we need to know our individual purpose to begin doing “the work”?

Success comes at a price. But these principles will ensure we are the kinds of people that God will use. Success is expensive, sometimes it requires sacrifice and hard work, it doesn’t come easy, but, if we are truly Followers of Jesus, what other option is there?

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