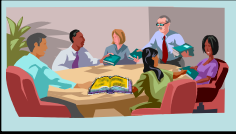

WEEK OF

June 20, 2010

SMALL GROUP

BIBLE DISCUSSION

TOPIC: The Power of Seed: Contributions from the Fathers

Sermon in a sentence: Fathers have an important role to play in unleashing the power of their seed: take charge of how your seed is sown and tended.

Points to Make

- Jesus likens the kingdom of God to a mustard seed. Once sown, it grows into a tree greater than all others.
- This demonstrates the power, or potential, resident in that little seed.
- There are at least three contributors to a seed's bearing fruit:

  1. What the seed has in and of itself (Mark 4: 26 – 29); 2.How the seed is sown and tended (Proverbs 22: 6; 1 Cor 3: 6 – 7); 3. The increase that God gives (Mark 4: 26 – 29).
- Fathers are able to have control over the second factor – how the seed is sown and tended.
- The Word of the Lord shows us that fathers have an important role to play in unleashing the power of their seed by taking charge of how your seed is sown and tended.
- **The seed must pass from and to a pure source.**
- Genesis 1: 11 shows us that "God created the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself".
- Jesus expounds this principle by assuring us that the principle of sowing and reaping is a fundamental truth. So, the created order demands that the seed remain pure.
- Moses makes the principle more explicit in a practical way, in Leviticus 19: 19 where he writes that the Israelites should not sow their field with mixed seed.
- It is Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians 6: 14 who exposes the principle that believers must not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.
- Fathers, therefore, are encouraged to keep their seed transfer pure both before and after marriage.

Key Scriptures:

- **Mark 4: 26 – 29**
- **Proverbs 22: 6**
- **1 Cor. 3: 6 – 7**

- **From its conception the seed must be watered.**
- 1 Peter 1:23 states that we are born again, not of corruptible but of incorruptible seed, which is the Word of God that lives and abides forever. The watering of our physical seed involves bringing it into the atmosphere of the Holy Spirit using every available means.
- **As it grows the tree must be tended.**
- Training of their seed is an essential act of fathers. They must be taught habits and discipline for any sustaining impact.
- That is why Proverbs 22: 6 tells us to train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is older he will not depart from it.
- Psalm 112: 1 – 2 outlines the fundamental truth that if we **know and model** God's commandments, our seed will be mighty on the earth and the generation will be blessed.

Discussion Tools

- Think about and/or share responses to the Ice-Breaker question.
- Having that word in mind, do you think your father provided that nurturing you needed as a child?
- Discuss some of the fruits in, or missing from, your life today as a result of your father's nurturing or lack of it.
- What will you continue to do, or do differently in your child's life to ensure he/she gets the proper nurturing?

Prayer Time

Dear Lord, help our fathers to take charge of how their seeds are sown and tended, so the coming generation can bring honour to you, in Jesus' name.

ICE-BREAKER: What is the first word that comes to mind when you think of your father?

NOTES