

Sunday, January 15, 2017
Did You Know?

Bible Based Fellowship

There are a lot of times when we are together with Christian friends, some of these times are purposeful and sometimes we just hang out. We can make our gatherings a lot more meaningful by asking good questions. One such question is, "What has God been teaching you in the Bible?" It's a good question because all Christians should not only be reading the Bible regularly, but should be getting something out of the Bible whenever they read it. As I mentioned in the sermon a couple weeks ago, practice the discipline of responding back to God after each section or chapter of the Bible that you read. In fact, try not to go on to the next chapter or section until you've done that. For example, this week I read Genesis 19 about Sodom and Gomorrah. As Lot's family was fleeing he was commanded not to look back, but Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. Before closing the Bible, I prayed, "Lord, help me not to look back at the life of sin I've been saved from, but to continue to walk in the way you lead and guide me." Now, those weren't the exact words, but it was something like that.

My mentor from way back taught me a cute little way to share what God has been teaching us when we share with one another and it's by using the acrostic, CUPS.

Christ-centered. Always share in a way that speaks more of Christ than of yourself. In our day and age it tends to be all about me, me, me...my problem, my struggle, my sin. Make it about Christ.

Use the Bible. Don't merely share the events of your life, share which Scripture spoke to your situation, how it gave you perspective, comfort, conviction and so on.

Personal. Make it personal. Don't you hate it when you're in a Bible study and it's time to share what's supposed to be a personal application, but instead what's shared is a mini sermon. "I think people everywhere should love each other" or "That's why the church should be less judgmental." That wasn't personal at all.

Short. Keep it short. Others need to share too. You don't need to talk about everything including the kitchen sink. Stay on topic and keep it short.

Let's see if we can apply CUPS to Genesis 19. It might go something like this:

I was reading Lot's story and in the story, Lot and his family were commanded to flee and not look back. That made me think that I sometimes do that. I look back at my past with a longing that I shouldn't have, since that was the life I had before Christ. I look back at and sometimes wonder what could have been, especially in terms of my career. This passage reminded me of all that Christ has done to save me from that past and that the life I have now is so much greater because of Christ.

Next time when you're in a small group try to do this. It just might improve the quality of your fellowship.

Pastor Peter