



BUMPER STICKER THEOLOGY

SESSION 2 - GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES

SERIES BIG IDEA

This series takes a look at some familiar Christian axioms as we ask the question, “Is it Biblically sound or just sound Biblical?”

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Through his people, God helps those who can’t help themselves.

SCRIPTURE

2 Thess. 3:6-13; Leviticus 23:22

ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

Use this time to open your group and break the ice. The second question is designed to help groups become more comfortable with the topic of the day and to engage each other.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Read the scripture out loud and allow your group time to think through the questions. Thinking about how you might teach or talk about a scripture can help you begin to see implications of it in new ways. There is no “right” answer to this and if necessary, tell your group that so anyone shy or who wants to have the right answer will feel more comfortable.

A NOTE ON 2ND THESSALONIANS

When we come to Scripture, we need to understand the context in which he was writing. Back then, church communities had a kind of common fund that everyone shared and would have access to and use as needed. In this situation, they had some people who were slacking in their work, not contributing to the common fund, and relying on the efforts of others. So Paul calls them out.

Paul is NOT saying, “Everybody needs to go out and pull yourself up by your bootstraps and make it on your own!” No!

Paul IS setting up some healthy boundaries here by saying, “It’s a good thing for us to help each other out when we are down – we should do that! But this is not an excuse for not working. -- If you don’t work when you could work, then you don’t eat!”

The Leviticus passage highlights how God’s people are supposed to view abundance and economy in counter-cultural ways. We are to be a people who look out for the dignity and value of other people – taking care of them but also allowing them to have dignity. Help your group think through what that could look like on larger scales.

LIFE APPLICATION

Walk your group through these questions slowly. So often in church we can become stuck in a rut, thinking we know how we should act or what we ought to do without actively considering the messages our actions are sending. Use these questions to think through some of those “automatic” actions. Perhaps there needs to be a change.

End the discussion by helping everything become practical. How can we do this, to whom, and when will this happen?

CHALLENGE

Consider partnering with one of Community’s ministries that come alongside those who are facing challenging circumstances: World Relief, Safe Families, Community 4:12, Kids Hope USA, Compassion International, or join a small group to serve on mission together.