

Ordinary Faith

Matthew 5:3

Overview:

- Read the Scriptures printed in this study guide.
- What keywords do you first notice? Highlight or circle them.
- What phrases catch your attention? Underline them.
- God knows how to set us free. God wants us to be free, healed and whole.
- This series is a journey into the practically applied Grace of God. Please do not be afraid.

There are lots of addictions:

Overworking	Insecurity
Overeating	Perfectionism
Alcohol/Drugs	Hypochondria
Overspending	Hurtful relationships
Grief	Gambling
Guilt	Lying
Anger/Rage	Procrastination
Fear/Anxiety	The need to control
Divorce	_____
Abuse	_____
Sexual addictions	
Codependency	

Explore:

- Discuss the power of a simple addiction as a group. (i.e. Starbucks coffee, Ice Cream)
- Would any of those in the group be willing to share a change they would like to make in their life? Have you tried before and failed at this change?
- Discuss our tendency to do wrong, where does it come from?
- Discuss our desire to be God, is that true? How?
- Discuss the ways in which we try to be God?
- Discuss the various problems "playing God" causes in our lives and families.
- "I am not God." Discuss the words or feelings that come to mind upon considering that phrase.
- Let's talk about Denial. Have you ever experienced it? Have you ever seen it in others?
- How can "Admitting that I am not God" change our situation?
- Discuss James 4:6.

Application:

Discuss Simple Daily Applications

Notes:

Matthew 5:3 "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Isaiah 57:18-19 I have seen what they do, but I will heal them anyway! I will lead them. I will comfort those who mourn, 19 bringing words of praise to their lips. May they have abundant peace, both near and far," says the LORD, who heals them."

Romans 7:15-17 I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. 16 But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. 17 So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

Romans 7:21, 23 I have discovered this principle of life--that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ... 23 But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

Psalms 32:3 When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long.

Psalms 32:4-5 ...My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. 5 Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Proverbs 28:13 People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

James 4:6 But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but favors the humble."

A New Attitude... REALITY

Matthew 5:3, Isaiah 57:18-19

Realize *I'm NOT GOD; I admit I'm powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and my life is unmanageable.*

THE CAUSE OF MY PROBLEM:

MY SIN NATURE

OUR TENDENCY TO DO WRONG

OUR DESIRE TO BE GOD

OUR ATTEMPTS TO PLAY GOD

Control of Our image, Other people, Our problems, Our pain

THE CONSEQUENCES OF MY PROBLEMS.

FEAR

Gen. 3:10

FRUSTRATION

Romans 7:21, 23, Psalm 32:3

FATIGUE

Psalm 32:4-5

FAILURE

Proverbs 28:13

THE CURE FOR MY PROBLEMS:

ADMIT MY POWERLESSNESS

ADMITTING WEAKNESS:

Admitting that I'm not God means I know I am:

I am powerless to change MY PAST:

I am powerless to control OTHER PEOPLE:

I am powerless to cope WITH HARMFUL HABITS, BEHAVIORS, AND ACTIONS

A HUMBLE HEART

James 4:6