

WHAT MATTERS

What Matters

Part 1 - "Finding What Matters"

Small Group Material

January 8th, 2017

Participant Guide

Bottom Line: *When you understand what matters you can begin to pursue what matters.*

Study Verses: *Ephesians 1:15-19, Proverbs 13:12, 2 Corinthians 4:6, Psalm 34:8*

Key Points

- *What we collide with effects us so deeply on the inside that it eventually gets expressed on the outside.*
- *Stop managing behavior. Begin to focus on what you see.*
- *You have a say in who you become this year.*
- *Jesus invites you into the process of seeing the world differently. Wisdom is about your eyes being awakened.*
- *Promises focus on the outcome, but neglect the process.*
- *Values define the things that matter.*
- *The fruit of futility is indifference. The fruit of resentment is bitterness.*
- *Spend less time thinking on HOW you are going to change and more time reflecting on WHY you want to change.*
- *Vision allows you to see what you hope to become and not just what you no longer want to do.*
- *When you understand what matters you can stop reacting and start responding.*

ENCOUNTER

- Over the past few weeks do you find yourself reacting to circumstances or responding to your circumstances? What makes you answer in the way that you do?
- How is transformation and growth found not in fixing your behavior, but changing what you see?
- What dangers exist when you focus solely on HOW you are going to change and fail to answer WHY you want to change?

FORMATION

- Read Ephesians 1:15-19 and 2 Corinthians 4:6. What was Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus? What does it mean for the eyes of your heart to be opened? What did Paul want them to see with this new vision?
- Read Proverbs 13:12. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. The fruit of futility is indifference. The fruit of resentment is bitterness. Are there places, situations or relationships where you are carrying indifference and bitterness with you into 2017? Why are you responding in this way and what would it look like to change your perspective?
- Read Psalm 34:8. How willing are you to "taste and see" that the Lord is good? What are you doing with this invitation?

EXPRESSION

- If someone were to follow you around for a few days, how do you think they would describe what you value? How would their assessment make you feel?
- What are the things that matter to you? How is your life arranged to value those things?
- How would you describe the vision you have for the person you want to become in 2017?