

Cell Group Lesson: The Check

Ice Breaker: What was the first prayer you remember praying, when you were a child?

Facilitators Comments:

If Bill Gates wrote you a check for \$1million, how much would it be worth? One million dollars? Well actually it's only worth the paper it's written on and the ink used to write it out. You'll only realize the true value of Bill's check when you take it to the bank and cash it. Let's start discussing our Heavenly Checks by reading our 1st Commentary...

Read:

1st Commentary

Vance Havner once said "We carry checks on the bank of heaven and never cash them at the window of prayer." A check is a promise and the Bible has written many "checks" to us. We shouldn't leave these checks "uncashed" by not taking them to the Lord in prayer.

Facilitators Comments: *Let's read about someone who took his "Heavenly Check" to the Lord, in Luke 18:38...*

Read

Luke 18:38 - And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹ Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁰ So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, ⁴¹ saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And he said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." ⁴² Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." ⁴³ And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God. (NKJV)

Question: What question did Jesus ask Bartimaeus?

Answer: "What do you want Me to do for you?"

Question: Why do you think Jesus asked that question, when He already knew that Bartimaeus was blind?

Answer: Jesus was testing Bartimaeus to see how much faith he had in Jesus' power to heal.

Question: What could have Bartimaeus asked for, in response to the Lord's question?

Answer: Instead of his healing, he could have asked for food, shelter, money, new clothing, etc.

Facilitators comments: *Bartimaeus asked and trusted Jesus for his most important need, when he said to Jesus: "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Let's read about some of the Heavenly Checks, or promises the Lord has given us.....*

Read:

Ps 103:2 - Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: ³ Who forgives **all** your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases (NKJV)

Phil 4:19 - And my God shall supply **all** your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

Ps 107:19 - Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses. ²⁰ He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. (KJV)

Facilitators comments: *Let's read "How" we are supposed to bring these Heavenly Checks to the Lord:*

Read:

Heb 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (NKJV)

Matt 7:7 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. (NKJV)

James 2:17 - In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (NIV)

Question: What do you see are the common denominators in these three scriptures?

Answer: Boldness and action

Facilitators comments: *Songs often remind us of God's care and carrying power, let's read some of the lyrics from the song "What a Friend we have in Jesus"*

Read:

Song Lyrics from *What a friend we have in Jesus:*

"O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry

Everything to God in prayer"

Question: Why is it that we sometimes "**under**" pray? In other words, why is it that we sometimes will not take our greatest needs to the Lord in prayer?

Answer: Fear, doubt, sin, weak faith, or sometimes we think that: "My problem *is too small for God to worry about*", or "*My situation is impossible.*"

Facilitators Comments: *Let's read why we don't sometimes receive, the Heavenly Funds, from the Lord's Heavenly Bank ...*

Read

James 4:3 - *When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.* (NIV)

Question: What do you think the Bible means when it says "**wrong motives?**"

Answer: The intentions are wrong; they are more for selfish reasons.

Facilitators Final Questions:

* *Are there certain important prayers requests that you are not praying for, but that you need to pray for?*

* *Are you ashamed or afraid to ask God for your deepest needs?*

* *Do you think that your problems and issues are too small and unimportant to God?*

Facilitators Comments: As we reflect on these questions, let's read our 2nd commentary...

Read:

2nd Commentary

Don't forfeit your peace, don't bear needless pain, take all of your Heavenly checks and "cash" them at the window of prayer. Let's become like Blind Bartimaeus and seek the Lord for our highest and most important needs and not settle for less than what God has for us. God loves you, He cares about you, He cares about your situation, He cares about your pain, He cares about your suffering and He wants to move in your life. But He needs you to bring the "miracle" checks to Him, in faith believing that He will meet your need. As faith without works is dead, so also is a check, without cashing it, useless.

Facilitators Comments:

Let's rekindle some prayer requests and take them prayerfully back to God. Let's not be weary in well doing and stop praying for things that we feel won't come to pass. With fresh faith let's read the final verse for this lesson.

Read

James 1:6 - But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. (NKJV)

Facilitators Comments:

*Think in your mind and heart of certain things that you need to **re-believe** God for in your life and let's stand and pray and **re-submit** them to God.*

Reading Material for the Cell Group Lesson: The Check

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