

## Growing Deeper Through the Week...

During our church wide study of *3:16 The Numbers of Hope*, the Growing Deeper section will have some thoughts and questions from Pastor Dave. They are designed to supplement the daily devotional readings of "Only Jesus: 40 Days with the Son" by Max Lucado found on pages 131-214. If you want to know more about how to have daily devotions or become a part of one of CenterPoint's many Life Groups contact Pastor Dave daves@centerpointnh.org, call 224-7427, or use a Connecting Card).

### Day 3, Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 2009

How many times are you caught in the middle of doing what you think is right for you and doing what you believe God says is right? For Joseph there was no choice. He knew that what was right in God's eyes, in reality, was right for him. What were some of his immediate and long term "rights" that he immediately gave up?

When was the last time you gave up your "rights" to enable growth as a disciple? What plans (your rights) is the Lord asking you to swap for His plan? How quickly will you respond?

### Day 4, Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 2009

Reflect on all that the word "love" encompasses in John 3:16. Jesus' love never fails us (1 Corinthians 13:8). It never calls it quits. What makes you want to quit loving God, loving others, loving our church, or loving the world? Read Hebrews 12:2-3 in your favorite translation and then in the Message paraphrase below.

***Hebrews 12:2 (Msg) Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever...***

What can become the compelling force in your life to live out a love that doesn't quit?  
more day 4 questions →

Which family member, co-worker, neighbor, or store clerk could you offer an act of kindness to, showing a hint of the love Christ has offered you? How will you specifically express love to that person today?

### Day 5, Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 2009

At twelve years of age, Jesus seeks the place of godly thinking. How do his actions inspire you to have the same focus? In 2009, what do the actions of a person look like when he/she seeks places of godly thinking? How would that focus touch your time, entertainment, reading, and thought life?

Read Proverbs 15:9. Who are you in this short Proverb? How would like those closest to you, like your family and friends, describe you? Reflect on some specific ways that would bring your desired description more into alignment with who can grow to be.

### Day 6, Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 2009

In the second paragraph on page 145, there are two words one could easily pass over, "just simple." What is missing in life by not being *just simple*?

I love the way Eugene Peterson words Jesus' guidelines for the disciples serving Him in this world.

***Matthew 10:10 (Msg) You don't need a lot of equipment. You are the equipment, and all you need to keep that going is three meals a day. Travel light.***

How could "traveling light" heighten your impact capacity in the world God has sent you into?

Jesus lived the life He has called each of us to live. Remember Hebrews 2:17-18 (Msg) on page 146. What are some of the ways Jesus traveled light? How can His willingness to "travel light" encourage you to do the

same? List a few a changes you could make in your life which could free you to “travel light” with simplicity.

### **Day 7, Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Jesus is always seeming to say good-bye to ways of life that “warm hearts,” in order to say hello to ways of life that answer His call to share the possibility of new life for others. For instance, He says good-bye to the glorious life of heaven and then the common, comfortable life of Nazareth.

Remember: ***1 Peter 1:17-18 (Msg) You call out to God for help and he helps—he’s a good Father that way. But don’t forget, he’s also a responsible Father, and won’t let you get by with sloppy living. [18] Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God. It cost God plenty to get you out of that dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in.***

What are some of the comfortable warm places that need a good-bye in order to align you more with your call to touch those in your world with the possibility of a new life through Christ (Eph. 2:10)?

Reread the last paragraph on page 148. How can this love of God settle any insecurity you face today? In light of God’s life-giving love, how will you declare your devotion for Him by saying good-bye to a Nazareth in your life?

### **Day 8, Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Jesus identifies Himself with mankind as John reluctantly baptizes Him. Lately, how have you been identifying yourself with Him? In other words, how do others see Christ in and through your life?

One very visible expression that you have identified yourself with Christ is baptism. Read Romans 6:4. Why is the symbolism of the total immersion of baptism so powerful according to Romans 6:4?

If you have been baptized by immersion, enjoy the memory of the moment where you expressed the inward reality of being a Christ follower with the outward expression of baptism. If you haven’t been baptized by immersion, what is stopping you from being baptized Easter Sunday (April 12)? What a wonderful way to celebrate Resurrection Sunday. Use a Connecting Card or call the church if you are interested in attending the baptism class scheduled for March 29 at 3:30 PM.

### **Day 9, Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Temptations and trials or tests many times feel like the same thing. While God tests with the desire to pass us with flying colors, the Devil tempts with the desire to have us fail miserably. Their intended outcomes are completely opposite. Why is the truth of Hebrew 4:15 a powerful resource as we wrestle with temptation? How can Hebrews 12:2 and Matthew 25:23 inspire a person to transform a temptation into a test they pass? What specific temptation or temptations are you facing that could use a little transformation?