



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

March 18, 2010

Dear Life Group Friends,

What another beautiful day it is today! I'm looking at my study window, looking at the sunshine, as I write this note to you. I hope you're enjoying the day that the Lord has given you.

This week we focus on greatness, an issue the disciples raised as a result of an argument they had about which one of them was the greatest. Jesus used their conflict to teach them about humility, a quality that is essential for brotherly love and unity, but about which most of us still have much to learn. I encourage you, as you prepare for this week's meeting, to let the Holy Spirit examine your heart and reveal areas of hidden pride in your life, and let Him cleanse you from those things and replace them with the humbleness of Jesus Christ, who never talked about His own greatness, but always pointed away from Himself to the glory of the Father. And of course, that's what the Holy Spirit, who lives within each of us who believes, wants to do in our lives - point away from ourselves to Jesus Christ, the One He came to glorify through us. The audio message by John MacArthur will give you further insight about both that and the passage we're studying this week.

In addition to this week's discussion questions, I've included some materials I hope you'll use to encourage the members of your life group to reach out to family and friends, using our upcoming Easter services as an opportunity to invite them to church with them. There are postcard invitations for doing that in your envelope, as well as another card with suggestions for how to welcome newcomers when they visit our church this Easter season and beyond. I hope you'll take time to distribute those materials and discuss them with your life group. Why not also take a few minutes to begin praying for our Easter services and the impact they can have on our community? This week's coaching tip will give you some ideas about how to motivate and mobilize your small group members in the area of outreach and evangelism.

Thanks as always for your faithful leadership! May God give you joy in it.

Grateful to Belong to Him!

Pastor Gary