

## Small Group Questions

5/7/17

Do you tend to measure your Christian life by the perfection of your life or by the direction of your life?

Why does John find it so important to explain that no matter where you are spiritually, your spiritual maturity does not affect your status with God (see v. 12)? (i.e. so that you're reminded of who your faith is in and so your relationship with God isn't based on your performance and efforts but on Christ's which provides unwavering confidence in your salvation because Christ's work is finished on your behalf.)

The process of spiritual maturity is a more common term for sanctification. What is sanctification? What is the goal of sanctification and how do you get there according to this passage? Feel free to use other passages (i.e. sanctification is the process by which God makes you holy, mature- the goal is thus Christlikeness- comes from a true, abiding, theologically informed, humble, worshipful relationship with Christ that conforms you to Christ. Passages Eph 4:11-16; 1 Pet 2:2; Heb 5:12ff.)

What are the strengths and weaknesses of being in the position of a child in your spiritual maturity?

Why do you think people linger for so long in this level of maturity?

What makes the maturity level of a young man different from a child? Talk about the prominence of the word of God and its abiding in you. (i.e. young men fight against Satan and sin BY the word of God)

What are some of the potential pitfalls of the spiritual young man? (i.e. the evil one and his schemes- accusation and temptation. You may not fall for the traps immature Christians fall into, but he's designed schemes for the maturing ones as well. Talk about what those might be- i.e. arrogance, impatience, frustration with less mature Christians etc).

You may only be young once but you could be a spiritual child for a lifetime. If spiritual maturity into fatherhood isn't primarily an age thing, what is it? (it's a deep, ongoing, theologically sound relationship with Jesus Christ where you don't just know the word but you've come full circle to truly know the God of the word.)

Fathers reproduce and become a father to other children in the faith. Talk about Harvest's discipleship model- from childhood to fatherhood- the lost are saved, the saved matured, and the matured multiplied. Are you a spiritual father? Are you maturing as a leader to multiply out of your small group? Who are you pouring your life into?