

start small...THINK BIG | WEEK 2

Caring Gifts | 05.01.11

During May 2011 The Church at Martinsburg will embark on a teaching series entitled *start small...THINK BIG*. During this series we will examine the words James, which direct us to care for and provide resources to the least of these. You and your family will have a unique opportunity to change the world during these three weeks!

Growth Questions for 5/8/11 – 5/15/11

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, eye-opening, troubling?
2. Define "good and perfect" gifts. How do we recognize them? What is the proper response to a good gift?
3. Have you ever doubted the goodness of God? What were the circumstances? What were your expectations? In what ways might that situation be God's gift to you?
4. What do you think it means that God is the "Father of lights"? How does this relate to you? How would you respond to the statement: "God has no dark side." How might this free you to trust Him in confusing and dark times? (1 John 1:5-6)
5. Why is it important that God is "immutable" – One in "whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." How does this character trait of God encourage you personally?

Living on Mission

Proclaim...Reach...Connect...Go

1. How could viewing your family (mom, dad, spouse, children), your church family, and your friends as good gifts from God help you when relationships are strained? How might this principle apply to your enemies?
2. Take some time to inventory God's gifts (spiritual, physical, relational, situational) to you:
 - Thank Him for them
 - Ask Him how you can better use them to serve Him and to bring glory to Him
 - Ask Him to use them to conform you to the image of Jesus
 - Ask Him to use them to advance the gospel in your family and community
3. What are some "good and perfect" gifts you can give so that others see the Father of lights displayed in a dark world? (2 Cor. 4:6)

Every good ... perfect gift is from above (v. 17)—Two different Greek words for "gift" emphasize the perfection and inclusiveness of God's graciousness; the first denotes the act of giving, and the second is the object given. Everything related to divine giving is adequate, complete, and beneficial.

Important Dates

- 5/8/11 Mother's Day at The Church at Martinsburg
- 5/22/11 Graduate Recognition (graduates.martinsburgchurch.org)
- 5/25/11 NEXT STEP w/ C@M

Multiple Worship Times - 9:00AM AND 10:30AM

COMMUNITY GROUPS – *Community Groups* are groups of people who come together on a weekly basis to promote significant Christian relationships that are centered around the study of God's Word (Hebrews 10:24-25 and Romans 8:29! Get more information at the Groups Table outside the Theater 4 today! Additional info can be found at groups.martinsburgchurch.org.