

This Month's D-Group Focus: *Proneness to Wander*

“Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts above.”

In Galatians, Paul declares in 1:6, “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel.” Even after becoming believers, we are prone to wander away from God and reject his free gift found in the gospel of Jesus. Countless circumstances and influences may draw us away from trusting in the gospel; the most likely source of our desertion will be our own sinful hearts.

To combat our proneness to wander away from God we must regularly remind ourselves (both our minds and our hearts) of the knowledge of the gospel. We must remind one another that our righteousness is only found in Christ in order to stave off deception. The Discipleship Group Rhythm, outside of our regular study of the Bible, is one of the greatest opportunities we have to help one another keep from wandering away from God. There is not “good” week to miss your small group, but D-Group week is a *terrible* week to miss group!

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| 1. What am I experiencing? | (Emotions, Events, & Relationships) |
| 2. Why am I experiencing this? | (Circumstances, Empathy, & Sin) |
| 3. How should I respond? | (Repentance & Reconciliation) |

1) What am I experiencing? (Emotions, Events, & Relationships)

A. Read Romans 6:23. Think about the gospel for a few minutes. What aspect of salvation through Jesus life, death, and resurrection do you have the most trouble believing in your mind, or heart, or actions?

B. How do little areas of disbelief (or lacking trust in God) affect you work, worship, and relationships?

2) Why am I experiencing this? (Circumstances, Empathy, & Sin)

A. Why do you think that weekend worship, your small group, and your daily, personal time with God don't always correct every area of disbelief that may come into your mind or heart?

B. Is there a season of life, circumstance or person that has influenced how you relate to God as much or more than the gospel of Jesus does?

3) How should I respond? (Repentance & Reconciliation)

A. Both in the Old and New Testaments "remembering" is a key aspect of faith. What are ways that you specifically (and your group together) need to remember the gospel together based on your specific areas of "wandering" from the gospel?

B. Think about your friends, family, and coworkers. Are there any ways you should repent or change your routine to put your trust in the gospel on display?

Resource:

Schreiner, Thomas. *Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament: Galatians*. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2010. *Theology in Application*, 89.