

www.ChristianSinglesInDenver.com **TUES NITES Meal, Message & Mixer at Mission Hills Church**

Brian Kluth's Series: "Single & Single-Again People in the Bible: Life Lessons for All of Us"
April 3, 2012 – "Paul's Pointers from Philippians: LEARN TO RISE ABOVE Your Circumstances"

Each week's handout and VIDEO will be posted online to share with others at www.christiansinglesindenver.com

NOTE: For the group Q&A time, you can ask a question about this message (or past messages) by using one of the microphones OR you can TEXT short questions to Brian at 720.432.2422 or Jane at 402.880.0572.

1) Rise above living defeated – God is at work

Phil 1:4-6 I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Phil 1:9-10 This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is **best** and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.

Phil 2:12-13 Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Phil 3:13-14 One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

God's windshield for your future is bigger and brighter than the rear view mirror of your past.

2) Rise above the bad things that happened – God can turn it for good

Phil 1:12-13 I want you to know, brothers, that **what has happened to me** has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

Romans 8:28 We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.



Pictures: David Ring from www.davidring.org, MaryJane Ponten from www.MephiboshethMinistry.org, Nick Vujicic from www.LifeWithoutLimbs.org – from *No Limbs to No Limits* and Bethany Hamilton from the movie, *Soul Surfer*

*God can turn your mess into a message (2 Cor 1:3-4),
your tragedy can become a testimony (Gen 50:20),
your scars can make you a star (Phil 2:14-15),
and your pain can become gain (James 1:2-4)*



3) Rise above living selfishly - God wants you to care about others

Phil 2:2-4 Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but **in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.**

Phil 2:14-15 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.

Phil 4:2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.

A new command I give you: Love one another. Jesus in John 13:34

4) Rise above the pride of possessions, position, power, pedigree or past achievements – God wants you to KNOW Him and to use what He has given you for His purposes

Phil 3:7-9 Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him.

1 Cor 4:7 What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift?

Whatcha doin' with whatcha got for God's glory?

5) Rise above worry, anxiety and stinkin' thinkin' – God can give you peace

Phil 4:5-9 The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.

Psalm 84:11 The LORD will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.

Do you want to be a rock or a bopper? One sinks to the bottom of the lake and the other floats on top. You can praise your way to the top.

Table Discussion Questions for this week:

1. (Everyone) Share your name, where you mainly grew up, your work, and a "little known fact" from your childhood years most people don't know about you.

2-3 help answer each question:

2. If you are new to the group, what attracted you to come? If you have attended before, what have you liked that has kept you coming back?
3. What quote in red was most meaningful to you tonight? Why?
4. What verse was most helpful to you? Why?
5. When you realize the difficult things others have overcome in their life (#2 – David Ring, Nik, MaryJane Ponten), what does this do to motivate you in your life?
6. What is something God has given you (question #4) that you are using OR could use for His kingdom purposes?
7. What is something that is causing you anxiety right now that you need God to turn a rock into a bobber through your praise?
8. What is something you're really thankful for in your life at this time?

HELPFUL TIPS for

Great Table Discussions

Each table should have a designated Table Host.

1. **Use God's ear-to-mouth ratio.** Listen two times more than you speak. 1 or 2 people should not dominate the time, and EVERYONE should contribute during the discussion.
2. **Smile and be friendly.** Avoid excessive complaining about people or personal problems.
3. **God's grace rules the day.** Recognize that everyone will not always agree – be gracious and give grace to one another. People are at different places in their spiritual walk and in their life journey.
4. **Moving the discussion along.** Table host/facilitators are to move the discussion along. They have permission to limit any negative comments, to invite people to answer a question, to ask someone for their perspective, to limit the amount of time some people speak, and to move on to the next question.
5. **Help for the hurting:** This is a supportive group, but it is not a support group or a therapy session. But if someone is really hurting, take a moment and have someone in the group specifically pray for them.