

DNA of a Christ Follower

Small Group Resources

Lesson 7: God-Dependent

Opener:

How many of the previous six DNA traits can you remember?

What is your single greatest strength, something you are really good at, better than most people?

What is something you absolutely require others to help you with, at work or in your personal life?

1 Thessalonians 4. 11-12

What is the command given here?

What is the reason for the command?

In addition to the things mentioned here, what are some specific things you can do to “win the respect of outsiders”?

We are told here to live in such a way that we will not be dependent on anybody. At the same time, we see in many part of the New Testament, notably passages about spiritual gifts and Christian community, that we need each other. **How do you reconcile these two ideas?**

Read these key passages about our topic today:

John 15.5; 2 Corinthians 12.9-10; Galatians 2.20; Philippians 4.13.

These all point to the idea of **God-Dependence**.

What makes it difficult for us to make ourselves (or recognize ourselves as) dependent on God? Some suggest that this is easier for women to do than men. **Do you agree or disagree and why?**

In both the Old Testament (Proverbs 3.34) and the New Testament (James 4.6) we are told that God opposes the proud (OT “mocks proud mockers”) but gives grace to the humble.

How have you seen this truth illustrated in the lives of others or in your own life?

What does a biblically humble person look like in our time and place?

What is the difference between a humble person and a dejected person?

A God-Dependent person has a humility that says “I need God.”

What kinds of situations in your week move you to a greater awareness of your need for God?

Read Hebrews 11.6.

What is your working definition of faith?

(Some may point to Hebrews 11.1. Push for a simpler, working definition. Ie, what exactly is faith?)

Is someone says “I’m trusting God for a new car” (or some other possession) is that faith or not?

What makes the difference?

[Faith is not sincerity; faith is not even being convinced that you will get something you want. Faith is taking God at his word, believing God will do what he has said he will do.]

What is the source of faith- how do we get it and how does it grow?

[Scripture indicates that faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit and that it grows in part from our exposure to the Word of God.]

A God-Dependent person not only knows they need God, but that God can and will help them.

What would you say to someone who desperately needs God’s help in a situation but he doesn’t seem to be coming through for them?

What are some things you do that give evidence that you are God-Dependent?

Less personal: What are some things people do that give evidence they are God-Dependent?

Here’s a list of some things that show up in a God-Dependent person:

- Prayer
- Gratitude
- Peace
- Boldness
- Reliance on the Holy Spirit

Which of these are growth areas for you?

“God is attracted to weakness. He can't resist those who humbly and honestly admit how desperately they need him. Our weakness, in fact, makes room for his power.” –Jim Cymbala

- Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? What can you point to in scripture to bolster your opinion?

Consider Sharing: Where do you know you need God’s power in your life this week?

Pray for one another according to these answers, and any other prayer requests that there may be.