

Point Group Notes

Message from 9/15/24

Leaders Guide

Leaders Notes are in RED

1. This week, the emphasis is on something other than doing the homework! It's about creating community! Make sure you follow the First Night Agenda. Remind people of the importance of completing the Homework, and remind them that the homework is online (pointharbor.com/pointgroups) and available in stands as they walk into the building.
2. Plan on spending only 20ish minutes on homework this week – play games, sit around, and chat!
3. This week's ministry emphasis is SERVING. When you're going around and doing names and introductions, ask, "Where do you serve at Point Harbor?" – if they don't have a solid answer, encourage them to sign up to serve at our website! Serving is a massive part of following Jesus! Let's be sure to *disciple* our people to serve.

Getting to know you...

1. WOW – Can you believe that Summer is already over? Fill us in! Name one "Highlight" and one "Valley" from your summer.
2. What are you looking forward to with Point Group Season this year?
3. What have you been reading/studying in God's word this summer? What have you been learning? – If you have room for growth! BE HONEST! We're all friends here!

Quick Review – Did Pastor John say anything that stood out to you? Were you left with any questions?

Digging Deeper...

Pastor John walked us through the reality that we are still used for ministry *despite* our past. Jesus has the power to redeem! He has the power to heal! He is IN CHARGE! We will quickly



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look at another spot in scripture where God's power of redemption is on display. Read the passage below and answer the questions on the back of this sheet.

Psalm 40:1-3 ESV

*¹ I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
² He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the Lord.*

1. This passage sets a narrative of someone who is not doing all that well and then, in v3, is able to praise God! What do you see when you compare v1 and v3?

Immediately upon reading v1, I think of the poor soldiers in WWI stuck in the muddy trenches on the eastern front. Locked in a stalemate with the enemy, morale was low, the mud was everywhere, and even walking to get supplies was exhausting, fighting for traction with war-worn boots. Can you imagine? Well, that's us when we're stuck in sin! It's not a good place to be. But then look at v3! Move from the mud bog to a solid footing able to SING! And look at the result – other people are *also changed!* Our singing of praise despite our past brings people to a saving faith in Jesus.

2. What two things did the author do in v1 that we can learn from? Why are these skills worth knowing and developing?

The author cried out to the Lord and waited.

This is a good spot to discuss the importance of praying without ceasing and the importance of waiting on the Lord. We often assume that waiting means sitting around waiting for God to do something, but it means continuing to trust, have faith, and fight through our circumstances with a heart of honoring God *until* we are pulled up onto a solid footing.

3. Who is doing the work in v2? What is it that they are doing?



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God! God moves us from the situations we often create because of sin and gives us the wisdom and strength to move through the healing process to where we are on a solid path versus the destruction and confusion of where we lived before. “Making

my steps secure” reminds us that following God gives us confidence and security over uncertainty.

4. We often pray that God would “make it stop” or “take it away,” but we see here that the author is *moved* from a mud pit to a solid footing. How is this result different? “Making it go away” would mean you wake up, and your former desire for sin and all the consequences of that sin suddenly vanish. While that would be nice (and sometimes that could happen), we often learn more and benefit from when God, in his time and plan, moves us from our former life into the life more abundant Jesus promised. Think of all you’ve learned under challenging seasons!

Taking it Home...

1. What part of v1 are you struggling with the most? The crying out? (Praying) or the waiting patiently?
2. Read Matthew 7:24-27. How does what Jesus teaches in Matthew 7 relate to what’s being said in Psalm 40?
The mud pit is a nod to building your life on sand. In other words – when you live according to man’s wisdom, you often end up in a mud pit, with a house collapsing around you.
3. When you look at v3 – what’s the result of this renewal God promises? How does this relate to what Pastor John was talking about this Sunday?
When God changes me, and I sing praises to Him for what He’s done, the People around me are changed for the better!
4. As you contemplate how you’ll apply this week’s idea to your life... How can we pray for you?



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The focus is prayer for application. Once you pray together, take other requests and ask that the group pray for everyone.

