

7. If you feel comfortable, share with your group the next step you want to take in regards to being a steward of your influence.

8. One way God has given us influence is to introduce people to Jesus. With Easter approaching, it's an especially good time to use your God-given influence to invite people to church. Write down the names of a couple of people who do not go to church whom you would like to invite. Share these names with the rest of your group and spend time praying for them.

THE CHALLENGE OF INFLUENCE

YOU HAVE _____!

GOD _____ YOU!

Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. Mk 12:1

DO NOT _____ YOUR INFLUENCE

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY INFLUENCE?

1. Identify your _____ of influence

2. Ask God for _____

"God, what do you want to say to me about my influence?"

3. Ask God for a specific _____

"God, what's one thing I can do today to be a better steward of my influence?"

Brothers and sisters, look at what you were when God called you. Not many of you were wise in the way the world judges wisdom. Not many of you had great influence. Not many of you came from important families. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and he chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong...God did this so that no one can brag in his presence. 1 Corinthians 1:26-27,29 (NCV)

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of March 22, 2009

Mark 11:11-12:17

QUICK REVIEW

Take a minute to look back over your sermon notes and reflect on what you heard in this week's message. Is there a particular Scripture, principle, or application that caught your attention or challenged you?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Describe a relationship with someone (outside of your immediate family) who had significant influence on you.

Was that person's influence intentional or unintentional?

If intentional, what steps did that person take to influence you?

INTO THE BIBLE

In the book of Esther, we read about two people who used their influence: Mordecai and Esther. For some background: the events you are about to read took place around 460 B.C. The Persians had taken the Jews into captivity. The Persian king Xerxes picked Esther for his queen. She was Jewish, but she kept her background a secret from the King. Esther's cousin, Mordecai, refused to bow down to Haman, who was King Xerxes' top official. In revenge, Haman issued an edict with the King's approval to destroy all the Jews (neither realizing that Esther was Jewish). Read **Esther 4:1-17**.

2. Review the three application points from the sermon. How do you see Mordecai and Esther applying these points?

3. Imagine you were Esther. What reasons could you have given for not using your influence?

4. In verse 14, Mordecai tells Esther, "And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" Rephrase in your own words what Mordecai says.

5. How can you apply what you wrote down in question #4 to your life?

BRINGING IT HOME

6. On Sunday, we talked about the tendency to minimize our influence. As you listened to the sermon, how did God speak to you about your influence?