

Taking It Home:

- When was the last time you found yourself tired of doing the right thing? How can today's message be an inspiration for you to continue taking up your cross and following Jesus? (Matthew 16:24)

- In Matthew 12:33-37, Jesus reprimands the religious leaders for their evil hearts. As one who has trusted Jesus, how can you keep your heart from evil thoughts and sinful activity in a very practical way this week?

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 offers a summary of the Gospel message, the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins, taking the penalty of sin upon himself and rose again. As we await the return of Jesus, we never grow too old to remember that the abundant life in Jesus is received by grace through faith apart from our works.

Recommended Resources:

- Visit the @Home Center this week and consider how the resources on prayer and living out your faith through your home can encourage you toward an abundant life in Jesus.

The Principle of the Path
Proverbs 4:23, John 10:10, Galatians 6:7,
Matthew 16:24

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Bethel Church
February 10, 2013

The Principle of the Path

Notes:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of February 10, 2013

Proverbs 4:23, John 10:10, Galatians 6:7, Matthew 16:24

Quick Review: This week we learned that following Jesus leads to an abundant life, not just in the life to come but in life here and now. This abundance can only be experienced in its fullest as we give ourselves completely to Jesus in our thoughts and in our actions. For us to do this well, we must guard our hearts from deceitful entertainment, philosophies and opinions. Thoughts and feelings lead to action. Each decision we make gives direction to the future. If you want to follow Jesus, take up your cross and do it.

My Story:

- When have you made a decision that resulted in good outcome you didn't expect?
- How do you get motivated again when you tire of doing the right thing?

Growing Deeper:

- In your own words, how would you summarize John 10:7-18? Giving special attention to John 10:10, how is the experience of the sheep who follows Jesus different than that of the one who is associated with the thief?
- Proverbs 4:20-27 offers wisdom for the one who wants to follow God in obedience. Notice verse 23 and the command to keep or guard your heart. How do the verses before and after 23 support this idea?
- Galatians 6:7 talks about reaping and sowing. How does this image help you understand the connection between our thoughts and actions?
- In v. 9 Paul challenges the young church to not grow weary in doing good. How do good works as a believer differ from good works as one who doesn't know Jesus? Consider also Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 10:19-25.