

WORD

There is a famous account in the Bible (Genesis 28) where Jacob was aware of all the problems in his life but he was not aware of what God was doing in the midst of his problems. Jacob knew the problems he had with his brother and that his father wanted him to go to a different people to find a wife. While Jacob was on the move from his brother and hopefully to find a wife, he laid down one night and had a dream. God appeared to him in the dream and told Jacob His plans to bless Jacob and Jacob's descendents. God showed him that He was going to give Jacob the land he was now traveling in. Truly God was working to bless Jacob.

Jacob, like us, was keenly aware of the problems in his life and some of the things he needed to do. Also like us, Jacob was not fully aware of God's presence and good plans. Jacob said, "Surely the Lord is in this place and I was not aware of it!" God is up to good things but often we are just not aware of it!

APPLICATION

This week, consciously choose to be more aware of what is going on around you. Don't allow yourself to "drone out" and be clueless. Put into practice some of the ways your group discussed to help you be more aware. Remember, God is working in ways you are not aware of yet! So purposefully look for what God is doing around you and in your life.

Prayer: Lord, help us to be more aware of what is going on around us. Help us to listen to others better. Help us to be more aware of what You are doing. In Jesus' name. Amen

Freedom Groups were created with the belief that we are all on a journey through life and that our heart's desire is to be free to be all that we can be. We all want to find effective ways of living and be successful. Trying to find these effective ways to overcome the challenges we face by ourselves just does not work well. We are all the same, no one is different. We need others to help us successfully walk our journey to effective living. Everyone is invited to freedom groups so we can journey together. Join in!



Clueless Then Aware

NOTES

WARM-UP

- I have a wife and 4 daughters. As a husband and father I try very hard to understand the women in my life. I think overall I do a fairly good job now with 25 years of experience as a husband and 21 as a father. There have many times in the past however that my wife told me I was clueless when trying to understand her and my daughters.
- Have you ever had trouble understanding the opposite gender? If so how?

Being clueless is never fun. It means that a person is totally unaware of something or just doesn't know how to do something. Often we find out that we are clueless because we end up doing something or saying something that shows to those around us that we don't have a clue. This can be embarrassing.

We need to realize though that here are four different stages to becoming knowledgeable about something. The first stage is incognizant incompetence. This simply means we are not aware of what we cannot do or don't know. In other words, we don't know what we don't know. The second stage is cognizant incompetence which means that we are aware that we are not good at or don't know about something. The third stage is cognizant competence which means that we now know something or can do something but we really have to think consciously about it or work hard at it. The final stage of learning is incognizant competence in which we know about something or how to do something so well that it is almost second nature. Finally, at this point, we know or can do something without really thinking about it. This is the process we all go through in order to learn and grow.

The real turning point in this process comes when we first become aware that we are not aware of something. Realizing that we don't know something can be embarrassing. It is also a gift however. Without this turning point, of realizing that we didn't know that we didn't know, we would never be able to learn and grow. It is okay to admit that we did not know something. None of us can know it all. Realizing this gives us the opportunity to learn and grow.

A good example of this in my own life has been in discovering that I am not a very good listener. I like to think it is just because I am a man that I don't hear well. The women in my life disagree strongly with this idea though. They feel it is because I am not really trying to listen. This may be true. One time my wife asked me to pick up a couple of items from Sam's Club on my way home. She asked me to get some baby diapers and toilet paper. I told her I would. Once in the store I forgot what she asked me to get. I scoured my brain trying to remember what I was in there for. I thought for sure I remembered until I got home. She looked at me and asked why I got cheese and bread and where the diapers and toilet paper were. I immediately became aware that I did not listen well enough. I had a good answer though. I told her it didn't matter. If we ate enough of the cheese we would not even need the diapers or toilet paper!

Why So Clueless?

So often we live our lives on "auto pilot." We are living subconsciously, just going through the routines of our everyday lives. Why do we do this? How does this happen?

Unaware...

When we live our life on "auto pilot" we tend to "drone out" and become unaware of what is going on around us. We are just going through the motions. This can be frustrating to others, like it was to my wife when I brought her cheese instead of diapers or my son when he says, "Dad you are not listening!" Sometimes I can be clueless. Being clueless can also be dangerous and even deadly. Most accidents happen when we get distracted or just do not pay attention. We really need to be aware of what is going on around us. What are ways that we can keep ourselves from "droning out" and make us more aware of what is going on around us?

Being Aware Is Valuable

Being aware of what is going on around us is so important. In some circumstances, like driving a car or operating equipment, having awareness could save our life or the life of someone else. Even on a smaller note, being aware of others blesses them and lets them know that we care. Being aware lets us see all that is happening around us. Being aware allows us to connect with others. Being aware brings blessings. What are some of the blessings that you can think of from being aware of what is happening around us?
