

## Group Agenda – January 5, 2008

---

**Lesson: “The Biggest Small Church”**

**Passage: Zechariah 4:1-10**

### ***Background***

A new theme for Amarillo South this year is that we want to be “the biggest small church in Texas!” This means that, while God may grow us numerically, we want to pay attention to the small and personal ways God works in our lives, through quiet times with Him alone, joining a small group of believers for spiritual growth, and taking seriously the power of each one of us to make a difference by serving others.

Big tasks and problems often seem as insurmountable as climbing Mt. Everest! They loom before us, and we see no earthly way of surmounting or accomplishing them. Zechariah was part of a group of Jews in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC who faced a huge, insurmountable task. He was returning to Jerusalem in 520 BC, after being born in Babylonia after God punished Judah by allowing the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem and the temple, due to their unfaithfulness. Now, 70 years later, Zerubbabel has been sent back as governor to try and rebuild God’s temple, and Zechariah is in the group he brings with him. But looking at the ruins and devastation, and the resources they had, the task seemed impossible.

In chapter 4:1-10, an angel speaks to Zechariah, and tells him that, yes, by man’s own efforts and strength, it would be impossible. But this is God’s task, and by the power of God’s Spirit at work in them, it would be like God took a steam roller to this “mountain” of a problem, and made a flat field of it. The rebuilding would eventually be completed 4 years later, in 516.

Zechariah is encouraged not to let the bigness of problems convince him they were impossible, nor should the smallness of God’s solution be taken lightly. God often uses small beginnings, habits, groups, and methods to accomplish great things (e.g. Gideon & his 300, Jesus and the 12).

### ***IceBreaker***

What are some “small” things in your life that have made a really big difference for your growth and walk with God? How can some of these small things make a big difference for Amarillo South as a church?

## **Read & Discuss**

<Read Zechariah 4:1-10>

- Zechariah was part of a group of people, led by Zerubbabel, who came back to Jerusalem in 520 BC, 70 years after its destruction by the Babylonians, in order to rebuild God's temple. What does God's message to Zerubbabel in verse 6 say to someone facing such a huge, insurmountable task with very limited resources?
- What are some very real, practical differences between attacking a large task or problem using human power and strength, versus working "by the Spirit" of God?
- Verse 7 compares the task of rebuilding God's temple to a huge mountain. What does God say about this "mountain" to give the builders heart and hope?
- In verse 10, what does Zechariah say should be our attitude towards the seemingly "small things" that God often chooses to use in accomplishing big results in the world?

## **Apply**

- What "mountain" is in your life right now that seems impossible to climb on your own?
- Where have you seen God prove himself capable and faithful in accomplishing great things through his Spirit that seemed impossible to do logically by earthly means?
- Name some of the small but potentially powerful ways God has worked in your life and the lives of those around you. Do any of these "small things" apply to your current "mountain?"
- What "small thing" does God want to add to your life or our church's life in the coming year to take us to a new place where we haven't been before?

## **Pray**

- Pray for all the mountains in your personal lives and in the life of Amarillo South, that we might approach them in the power of God's Spirit.
- Ask God to show you the "small things" that will make a big difference for you personally, your group, and Amarillo South in the coming year.