



GROW. PRAY. SERVE.



Series: GROW AGAIN IN 2010!

Message: "Eliminate Regret"

PRAYER: Gracious God, who gives us every day for our benefit and blessing.

Empower us now to be a blessing to others and to use every moment that you give us to live our lives with power, passion and conviction. We long to live a life of rejoicing and not regret. We know that by your grace, we can do all things. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: Looking back over the year that just ended, describe something that happened that you regret?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. This parable is all about preparation. The bridesmaids in the parable were responsible for preparing the bride; so, why would they neglect their responsibility? One writer said, "Prior preparation prevents poor performance." How would you explain the importance of being ready?
2. How does not being prepared cause one to pass up vital opportunities? Have you done this? Have you seen others do this? Has this been done to you? If so, how did you feel? Think of an opportunity that you took advantage of recently. How did it benefit you? Did it glorify God? How did you feel?
3. How are you at being on time for work or school? What about important events? How does being on time and respecting the time of others honor God and portray good character? Have you ever wasted what God has given you? How can you, why should you, and what actions can you take to avoid being lazy? How does laziness insult God? How does it keep you from succeeding in life and in your faith?
4. How are some churches irresponsible with the opportunities God gives them? What does being wise mean to you? What does being *foolish* mean to you? Why did the wise bridesmaids refused to share the oil? How would you feel if you were turned down after asking to borrow something? What if you knew it was your fault for running out? Would you be mad at the person you are seeking to borrow from, or mad at yourself? How would this question help show your true character?

CHALLENGE: Consider what you should be preparing for right now and take the first step this week.

SERVE: How can you help others in your group prepare for something significant happening in their lives? Pray for the willingness and power to do it.

CHAMPION TIP: Pray for your group members to have the courage and desire to seize the opportunities that God puts before them. Pray about what opportunity that God would have you lead your group in seizing for the glory of God: how can you serve?