



### Getting Started:

This week, Pastor Stan spoke about the life of Job and how, in spite of life's circumstances, he continued to take God seriously.

1. What new insight did you gain from the life of Job on how you understand pain and hardship on this planet?
2. If you were to become more serious about God, what would that look like in your life? Do you think it is important to find a balance between "seriousness" and "joy?"
3. What prevents most people from becoming more serious about a personal relationship with God?
4. Name one change, or area of personal growth you would like to see take place in 2007:

### Homework:

Two weeks ago Pastor Stan started this series of messages on the greatness of God and how our goal is not just to be aware of God, or to have more information about God, nor to get emotional about how we feel about God. Our goal is to know Him in such a way that he begins to "rub off" on us. We want to become more Godly in the way we live.

**God Empowered Change: Working out what God is working in.**

#### **Colossians 1:28-29**

- 1) What do we need "all wisdom" for?
- 2) In this passage, what is our responsibility (working out)?

## LIFEgroup homework

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3) What is the ultimate goal for each person in ministry? How do you see this goal playing out in our LIFEgroups?

**God Empowered Change: A willingness that comes from God.**

### **Philippians 2:12-13**

1) What is our responsibility to “work out in the process of change?”

2) What is it that God is “working in” to bring about life change?

3) Why do you need to ask God to make you willing to grow in 2007?

**God Empowered Change: Prayer for Spiritual Growth**

### **Colossians 1:9-14**

1) Choose the one prayer item in this passage that best reflects your need for God’s help in bringing about change and growth in 2007.

2) Which prayer items reflect what we must “work out” and which speak of our need for God to “work in?”

## Topical Prayer

Prayer is a wonderful part of each LIFEgroup. Often those who are new to a LIFEgroup are intimidated to pray aloud or with others present since they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they dominate the time of prayer by going on and on. For these reasons, and more, we practice “topical prayer.”

### 1) Focus On One Topic At a Time.

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced during prayer, the group focuses on that request alone until it's sufficiently covered. Then the LIFEgroup Leader acts as a DJ changing the topic to the next prayer request for everyone to weigh in.

### 2) Keep Prayers Short & Simple

By keeping prayers short and simple, everyone has more of a chance to pray. Those who are new to prayer feel more comfortable praying because they know they don't need to pray more than a sentence or two. It also helps people to stay focused on agreeing in prayer with the person praying.

### 3) Pray More Than Once

Since the group is focusing on one topic at a time – each member is encouraged to pray several times for the topics they feel most passionate about.

No one will be put on the spot to pray. So don't feel pressured to pray until you feel comfortable. Over time we want everyone to grow in this area of prayer, experiencing the joy of connecting to our “Ahh-Some” God.