

FBC Small-Group Materials
Week of January 21st, 2007
Romans 1:17; the Righteous Will Live by Faith

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

What do you long for? Deep within your heart, what do you crave? More than anything, what do you want? New car perhaps? Recognition? Peace of mind? Money?

When Jesus talked about the longings of the heart, he used the words like thirst and hunger. And he pronounced as "blessed" those who long and crave for righteousness. The ones who are truly blessed are not those with the most money, or success, or academic achievements. No. The people who are truly on track with God, are those who deeply desire "rightness" or wholeness in all their relationships – wholeness with God, their family, their friends, their enemies, and even with the earth. They don't claim to be right, they simply long for the day when everything will be made right. "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." That's craving for righteousness. How bad do you hunger and thirst for it?

Blessings,

Scott

These small-group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at www.fbcdavis.org.

Discussion Starters:

- **Hunger and Thirst** – What does our culture hunger and thirst for?

Discussion Questions:

Introduction: Please read Romans 1:16-17; Matthew 6:33 and Matthew 5:6.

1. What do these verses say about righteousness?
2. What does it mean that this righteousness is from first to last?
3. Righteousness means right-relatedness. Why is it sensible that Christ followers will hunger and thirst for righteousness?
4. How is the entirety of our soul involved in hungering and thirsting for righteousness (mind, will & emotions)?
5. Lincoln longed for righteousness when he took a stand against slavery. Billy Graham thirsted for righteousness when he decided to take the gospel to uttermost parts of the world. Who else comes to your mind (famous or not) when you think about people who crave righteousness?
6. In what ways has Jesus brought righteousness to the lives of those who trust in him?
7. Why are righteousness and faith always related?
8. Jesus was willing to give all to secure our righteousness. For those who truly hunger for righteousness, there is a willingness to sacrifice for others. How is loving sacrifice related to righteousness?

Putting it Into Practice:

Leaders Note: If your group is large you might want to consider breaking the group into pairs or small groups to answer the next two questions.

1. How have you grown tonight in your understanding of righteousness?
2. What would you like to do in response to tonight's discussion on righteousness? Is there something you would be willing to do or sacrifice because of your longing for righteousness?
3. Pray for one another.