

Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 2, 2014

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. It makes sense that we would look for and call on God's power in times of need. But in light of this week's teaching, can you think of a time when you saw God at work in the "minutiae" of life?

2. Just like God had a purpose for Israel, he also has a purpose for the church. If someone were to ask you what the purpose of the church is, what would you tell them?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we got a snapshot of a warrior God in Exodus 19. How can you reconcile the God described in Exodus 19:10-13 and Exodus 33:18-23 with the New Testament teaching about God found in Matthew 11:28-30 and Romans 8:15-17?

Why do you think it's important to keep both of these descriptions of God in mind?

How could knowing both of these descriptions of God affect our perspective on the struggles or problems that we face on a regular basis?

2. We heard this weekend how the Israelites "once again" fell into the cycle of staleness and slavery. It was as if they were powerless to do anything different. What do you learn about the cycle of staleness and slavery and how a person can get off the "once again" roller coaster from Galatians 5:16-26?

What do you find most challenging about living by the Spirit?

From this passage, what is most helpful to you as you try to live by the Spirit?

3. Chris talked about how God gave the Israelites a purpose for their existence in Exodus 19:3-6. As followers of Christ, all Christians have a part in God's purpose for the body of Christ. What do you learn about God's purpose for us as his body (the church) from the following passages?

1 Peter 2:9-12

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 2:42

What part of God's purpose for the church would it be easiest for you to ignore or skip?
Why did you pick that part?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Are there any "once agains" you're dealing with for which you'd like prayer?

2. Is there anything else from this week's sermon or study that you need to remember or apply?

Prayer Requests:

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Exodus 19:10-13

10 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes 11 and be ready by the third day, because on that day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. 12 Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death. 13 They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them. No person or animal shall be permitted to live.' Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain." [NIV]

Exodus 33:18-23

18 Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

19 And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

21 Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. 22 When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen." [NIV]

Matthew 11:28-30

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” [NIV]

Romans 8:15-17

15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. [NIV]

Why do you think it’s important to keep both of these descriptions of God in mind?

How could knowing both of these descriptions of God affect our perspective on the struggles or problems that we face on a regular basis?

2. We heard this weekend how the Israelites “once again” fell into the cycle of staleness and slavery. It was as if they were powerless to do anything different. What do you learn about the cycle of staleness and slavery and how a person can get off the “once again” roller coaster from Galatians 5:16-26?

Galatians 5:16-26

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. [NIV]

What do you find most challenging about living by the Spirit?

From this passage, what is most helpful to you as you try to live by the Spirit?

3. Chris talked about how God gave the Israelites a purpose for their existence in Exodus 19:3-6. As followers of Christ, all Christians have a part in God's purpose for the body of Christ. What do you learn about God's purpose for us as his body (the church) from the following passages?

Exodus 19:3-6

3 Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." [NIV]

As followers of Christ, all Christians have a part in God's purpose for the body of Christ. What do you learn about God's purpose for us as his body (the church) from the following passages?

1 Peter 2:9-12

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Living Godly Lives in a Pagan Society

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. [NIV]

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." [NIV]

Acts 2:42

The Fellowship of the Believers

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. [NIV]

What part of God's purpose for the church would it be easiest for you to ignore or skip?
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