

Please use this guide in your Life Group discussion to help glean the most from our Sunday morning teaching. These notes are also excellent for your personal study and growth.

(Note: In previous Life Group Notes, we've seen a section called "Plant." Since that is redundant to "Sow" and it does not best describe the goal of the section (to explore biblical principles for us today), Plant will now be Tend.)

Till [Get the soil ready]

God promised Abraham that he would make him into a great nation. Counting wives and direct offspring, they are six people once Jacob is born who are "Israel." So, they are not yet "nation" status. But, from Jacob, the population will escalate.

- Besides salvation, have you ever been honored, promoted, or rewarded for something you feel you did not deserve?
- From the message or your own knowledge, who has God used despite their imperfections? Can you think of examples within the Bible? In history? In your own life?

SOW [What God wants us to hear]

God often uses people despite them. Read John 11:45-53.

- What was the intention or final decision for this group?
- Who spoke for God and did not even realize it?
- What did he say?
- Did he understand the significance of his statement?
- What is the significance of his statement?

Despite teaching against it, we often practice like some form of prosperity Gospel is true: If I'm righteous, God will bless me.

- How do the examples you gave earlier and the one from John 11 above fly against the notion that if I'm righteous, God will bless me?
- So, can God use whomever he wants whenever he wants?
- How does the story of the cross illustrate how God uses people for his purposes (consider the Jewish leadership and Pilate)?



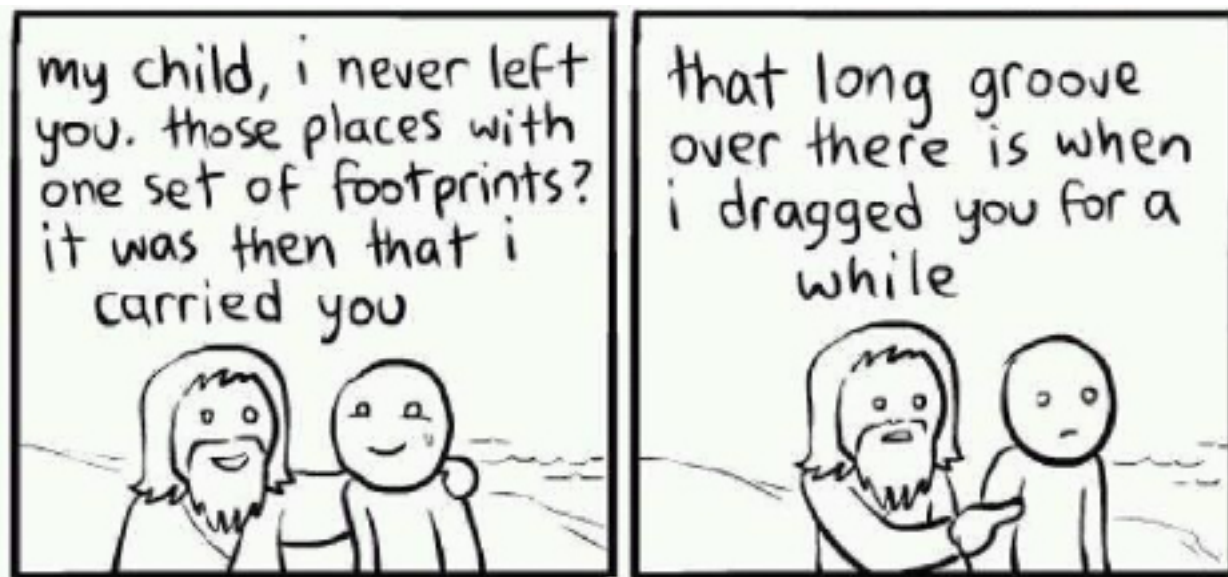
Tend [Working the truth into our hearts]

By now, you may be feeling uncomfortable. Does this mean that we can sin all we want and God will use us? No! There's a bigger question: Will we willingly serve what God is doing or oppose it? Look at Acts 5:33-39.

- Without naming names, how do churches or individual Christ followers resist what God is doing today? Defend your answer with Scripture. In other words, how are they violating God's revealed will as seen in the Bible?

Harvest [Where the fruit is seen]

- How have you resisted God and his plan for the world and our community? How have you been in harmony with his plans?
- Consider the mission aspect of your Life Group. Does this discussion inspire ideas for your Life Group to work in rhythm with God's stated goals? If so, what are they? If you have no ideas, are you in rhythm with God's goals?
- So, after all is said and done, who gets the credit for God's desires being met? Can we pat ourselves on the back? Can how you felt when God used you?
- Use your journal to thank God for what he is doing in your life, Life Group, family, community, and the world despite your shortcomings. Will we walk with Jesus or be dragged against our will?



Preview: How does Joseph's story illustrate that God can use whomever he wants to use?

