

Discussion Guide and Study Notes

April 14th, 2013

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.

Till [Get the soil ready]

- Wow, the April 14th message was packed with a ton of challenge. Please pray for your pastors as they continue their study. We have a plan to finish the Bible by the end of 2013, but there are only so many Sundays! Which stories would you include? Leave out?
- Did anyone learn why God chose the plagues he did? Randomly? Does it have something to do with the Egyptian gods? Yes!
 - o Each plague is an “in your face” moment to the Egyptians and their gods.
 - o For example, they had a sun god (darkness), a Nile god (frogs and blood), and even Pharaoh and his son were gods (first born).
 - o So, what was God’s point? What does this say about his power and sovereignty?
- The Israelites were continually reminded to remember the Red Sea crossing. What historical milestones should Christ followers remember? Why...what’s the point?

Sow [What God wants us to hear]

- God’s plan to redeem mankind and remove the penalty of death continues to unfold. The Passover Celebration previews Jesus and his death.

Look at these passages.

- John 13:1. Is it by accident that Jesus celebrated the Passover just before his death? What are the parallels between the yearly Passover and Jesus’ sacrifice? Think about...
 - A lamb sacrificed.
 - Blood shed and applied.
 - Death “passing over.”
 - Freedom from slavery.
 - Freedom with blessings piled on (the Israelites plundered the Egyptians).
 - Faith (during Moses’ time and our time).
 - Death of a first born.
- I Cor. 5:7



Tend [Working the truth into our hearts]

Let's focus on two areas: freedom and remembering.

- Freedom!
 - o Christ followers are free in him. From what?
 - o Do you really believe that God tells the truth? You are free in Christ (Rom. 6:6-7)
 - o So, what does this mean when we are tempted to sin? What does it mean about besetting sins that we just can't seem to get past?
 - o Believing this truth is first and foremost in experiencing this freedom.
- Remembering
 - o Earlier, you were asked what we remember from New Testament history.
 - o Beyond the theological reasons, how does remembering these things help

Harvest [Where the fruit is seen]

- Zion has previously mentioned the book Redemption. It's possible to get another Life Class started on it again. But, could you or your Life Group lead the charge? Let the enthusiasm come from you. How?
 - o Read the book.
 - o Tell others about it and how you've grown from the concepts.
 - o Seek out who would be interested in studying it through as a Life Class.
 - o Contact your campus pastor to make the arrangements.
- Pick something you need to remember that God has done: Bible story, answered prayer, moving behind the scenes, changing someone's heart, etc. Along with a journal entry, find a creative way to remember it. Painting? Reminder beep on cell phone? Have someone send you postcards with a reminder? What else? Try to avoid things that can be missed over time like a note on the mirror. After a while, we don't notice it anymore!

Preview: Old Testament law has been called "the boring part" of the Bible. Want a short course on what it all means? Read Hebrews 7-10.

