

Discussion Guide and Study Notes

April 28th, 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]

Starting in April, we have been encouraged to take regular time in the Word and in prayer. How is that going? What has God taught you? How can you help one another stay consistent?

- Have you ever NOT heeded the following warnings but later wish you had?
 - o "Content may not be suitable for young children."
 - o "Construction Speed 45mph"
 - o "Bridge ices before road"
 - o "Do not store above 120 degrees or dispose in fire"
 - o "Do not block street in front of fire house"
- In our culture, towns, and country, what (or who) do some people worship (besides Jesus)? What are they hoping to gain by this worship?

Sow [What God wants us to hear]

- What had God done for the Israelites since Moses arrived to the Golden Calf incident (Exod. 32-33)? Try to remember yourselves, but you can skim through these passages if you need help (all are in Exodus): 7:10; 11; 12:1-17; 12:33-42; 13:17-22; 14; 15:22-27; 16; 17; 19:15-9; 20:1-21; 23:20; 31:18.
- So, were they walking by blind faith or did they have hard evidence for God's presence and care?



Tend [Working the truth into our hearts]

Especially in this part of her history, Israel is a “slow moving target” when it comes to criticism. After all the Lord did for them, they make an idol of gold! However, we should be even slower to point fingers.

- What evidence (from the Bible or stories from your own life) can you point to of God’s presence and care?
- Define idol or idolatry.
- Even with this evidence, what idols have you built? What have you depended upon other than the Lord for your life? Do you have a default idol (one you run to when things get bad)? Examples could be savings or credit, worry, food, shopping, drugs/alcohol, sleep, anger, escape, hobbies.

Harvest [Where the fruit is seen]

- In the message on the Golden Calf (Exodus 32-33), we saw three circumstances that act as idolatry warnings. In other words, when we experience isolation, impatience, and idleness, we should let them serve as bells & whistles that we are on dangerous ground.
- Isolation, impatience, and idleness can draw us to an idol. In your journal or in your Life Group, can you explain when one (or more) of those warnings led to idolatry?
- Abandon the idols. Admit them to the Lord. Confirm that he is your God. Pray for insight to any remaining idols you may harbor.

Preview:

1. How can fear lead to bad decisions?
2. Look at a Bible atlas and find the Sinai Desert (it’s just to the East of Egypt; many Bibles have maps in the back). Do you see where it is in relation to Israel (the desert is south of Israel). That’s about were the people were camped at Numbers 13-14, our next message.

