

Certainty in Chaos

February 14, 2021 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



CERTAINTY IN CHAOS

- KNOW THAT CHAOS IS NORMAL
- KNOW GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY
- KNOW GOD'S WORD
- KNOW GOD'S PURPOSE
- KNOW GOD'S PRESENCE

Questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how chaotic has your life felt lately?
2. How do you typically deal with chaos in your life?
3. The sermon was based on Acts 18 and focused on a married couple named Aquila and Priscilla (along with the Apostle Paul). Their lives were upended, but God's plans for them weren't. Review the points in the outline above. What in the sermon stood out to you? Do you have any questions?
4. Take a few minutes to read Exodus 14:1-16 before discussing it together (these events happened just after the Israelites were set free from slavery in Egypt).
 - a) Why did God lead the Israelites to "turn back" and camp by the sea (where they would end up cornered by the Egyptian army)?
 - b) How do you feel about God intentionally putting His people into chaotic and scary situations? Do you find it troubling or encouraging?
 - c) Why do you think the Israelites panicked when they saw the Egyptian army approaching (even after all the miracles they had seen God do for them in Egypt)? Can you relate at all?
 - d) What was the one thing that Moses told the people they needed to do?
 - e) What principles in this story might apply to dealing with chaos in your own life?
5. Take a few minutes to read Exodus 18:8-24 (in this story, Moses gets practical advice from his father-in-law, Jethro).
 - a) In the previous story (in Exodus 14), the chaos the people were experiencing was God's doing. What was the source of the chaos in this story?
 - b) Management skills don't often seem very spiritual (especially to people like Moses who had been experiencing the presence and power of God in incredible ways). But how do you think his lack of organization might have been affecting his and the Israelites' spiritual lives?
 - c) What system did Jethro recommend to Moses?
 - d) Could some of the chaos in your own life be due to a lack of good systems and organization? Share an example with your group if you have one.
 - e) What Jethros has God placed in your life who you could get practical advice from?
6. When experiencing chaos, how can you know whether you are supposed to pray and "be still" or take practical steps to organize and simplify your life?
7. Pray together that God would give you discernment when you experience chaos. Pray for any who are overwhelmed right now – that God would bring peace to their situation and lead them. And pray for any other specific needs in your group.