

Genesis 17 – Being the People of God

February 2, 2020 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.)



BEING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- LOVE HIS PRESENCE
- LIVE OUT HIS WAYS
- LEAD OTHERS TO HIM
- LET HIM DO SURGERY

Questions:

1. When you were in high school, what group of teens did you tend to identify with (the athletes, the smart kids, the musicians, etc.)?
2. How would you describe your sense of identity today?
3. What do you remember about each of the main points of the sermon? (seen above). Discuss what stood out to you. Do you have any questions to bring up?
4. How do you think Abraham and Sarah's sense of identity was impacted by the events of Genesis 17?
5. When you think about people in the Bible, who stands out to you as really loving God's presence? (Note: God's presence is everywhere but, as pointed out in the sermon, the Hebrew word for presence is the same as the word for face. When we speak of God's presence, we mean experiencing a sense of close communion with Him).
 - a) Read Psalm 27:7-9. In light of the connection between "face" and "presence", what is David concerned about?
 - b) Now read Psalm 63:1-6. What is the context of David's song? What to him is better than life? What else do you notice?
 - c) Read Psalm 42:1-4. How do the Sons of Korah feel about spending time with God? What are they wishing they could do again?
 - d) Read Exodus 33:3 and Exodus 33:15. What does Moses care about more than getting to the Promised Land?
 - e) How do various believers tend to experience God's presence today?
 - f) How can we grow in our love for God's presence?
6. Read John 15:4-5
 - a) If we feel that we are falling short in our efforts to "Live out His ways" and "Lead others to Him", what can help us?
 - b) How can we practically "remain in" Christ? (see John 15:7)
 - c) Now read Colossians 1:28-29. How was Paul so good at leading others to Christ and disciplining them?
7. Read Revelation 3:20
 - a) This verse is often used to share the gospel with unbelievers, but who was it originally written to and why? (see the surrounding context).
 - b) How can Christians end up drifting from their new God-given identity?
 - c) Do you trust the Lord enough to invite Him to do spiritual "surgery" on you? (see Revelation 3:19). If so, what should you do?
8. Now spend some time praying for each other. Pray that we would show ourselves to be God's people in the way we think and live.