

Genesis 23-24 Following God through Change

April 19, 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.)



FOLLOWING GOD THROUGH CHANGE

- BE PRAYERFUL
- BE WATCHFUL
- BE THANKFUL



Questions:

1. Are you someone who tends to be energized by change or stressed out by it? Share a story with your group that illustrates this about you.
2. What do you remember about the story of Abraham's servant finding a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24)? What stood out to you?
3. What do you remember about each of the main points of the sermon? (seen above). Was God speaking to you through this? Do you have any questions to bring up?
4. Read Acts 9:1-9 (Apostle Paul's conversion story)
 - a) Why do you think Jesus chose to blind Saul? Could there have been a message in this?
 - b) What kinds of changes were suddenly introduced into his life through discovering that Jesus was truly the Lord? What did this mean for his life as he knew it?
 - c) Why do you think he didn't eat or drink anything for three days?
 - d) Many people can remember a decisive moment when their lives were changed by Christ. Would one or two people in the group like to share their "Damascus road" experience?
5. Read Acts 9:10-22
 - a) Ananias initially resisted God's instructions. Can you think of any other Biblical characters who did the same?
 - b) Why do we sometimes resist what God asks of us? What are the root issues we struggle with?
 - c) How can this resistance be overcome?
 - d) How would Ananias have missed out if he had continued to resist?
 - e) How did God convince him to obey?
6. Read Acts 9:26-28
 - a) Why were the Christian disciples in Jerusalem afraid of Saul?
 - b) Are you ever convinced of something only to find out that you were completely wrong about it? How do you handle that when it happens?
 - c) What ominous threat are you fearful of right now? Is it possible that you're responding like the disciples did when Saul showed up? Is it possible that God is at work to do something wonderful?
 - d) Who do you know who is like Barnabas (able to speak truth and encouragement into situations?)
 - e) How might you become more like that?
7. Saul of Tarsus was the last person any of the early Christians would have expected to find Christ. Who do you know that you would say is the least likely to become a Christian? Would you commit to pray for him/her?
8. Now spend some time praying for each other. Pray for faith to navigate the changes that are upon us. Pray that we would not only survive this season but come out of it stronger and more fruitful than ever.