

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

Abraham's Legacy: Gen. 25:7,8; 2 Pet. 1:5-11

Sunday, April 26, 2015

These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions or family or personal devotions

1. Read Genesis 25:1-14 and 2 Peter 1:5-11: 1. Note that the record of Abraham's death begins and ends with genealogies (25:1-4, 12-18). What would Moses' purpose be in doing this? What does Moses want us to see?
2. What truths do the various descriptors of Abraham's death teach us?
3. Throughout his life, Abraham faced many trials. Many would say that he had a life of difficulty and turmoil, yet in Genesis 25, we hear that Abraham "died at a good old age", which implies that he lived a good long life, which he enjoyed. Can a hard life be good if it is lived out for the right purpose? Explain.
4. According to Genesis 25:8 Abraham died "an old man and full of years" – an expression that indicates that life is limited, that a span of life is allotted to us all. Read Psalms 39:4; 90:12; 139:16 and consider your own life. Think of what Abraham did in the years given to him.
5. In Genesis 15:6, we learn that Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. Why do you think God allowed Abraham's faith to count for so much to his credit, even though he did not do anything else to earn God's favour? Do you think stories of the *successes* or the *failures* of Biblical heroes help us more in our personal walks with Christ?
6. Abraham's legacy was extensive. To his life of faith he added the fruits of faith. Consider what 2 Peter 1:5-8 says we should add to faith. Can you identify each of these fruits of faith in Abraham as you review his life? Do you see these fruits of faith in your own life? List the growth you see in your life in all of these areas.

7. From 2 Peter 1:2,3 and 8, as Peter writes about the “knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord”, describe what this ‘knowledge’ is comprised of? Read John 17:3, Matthew 22:37-38 and John 14:21, and discuss what it means to ‘grow in your relationship with Jesus’?
8. Pastor John pointed out that there are 2 loves included in the growth of the Christian's faith - brotherly love (*Philadelphian*) and godly love (*Agapane*). From what you have learned from the sermon and previous study, how would you differentiate between these two loves?
9. From 2 Peter 1: 5-7, these are Peter’s suggested additions to one’s faith: Goodness, Knowledge, Self-Control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly kindness, Love. Discuss if these are in an appropriate order, following a somewhat “spiritually logical” sequence or progression, which means it cannot fall out of order?
10. Consider the phrase that Abraham “was gathered to his people” (Genesis 25:8). What does this phrase mean? Who were “his people?” Who are your people?
11. Throughout Abraham’s life, we see many examples of great success, but also many examples of great failure. Why do you think God wanted the stories of Abraham’s failures to be included in the record of his great faith? Do you think stories of the successes or the failures of Biblical heroes help us more in our personal walks with Christ?
12. Pastor John quoted from F.B. Meyer a number of times. Please read Genesis 12: 6-8, and come up with the connection between this passage and the following quote from F.B. Meyer: *“If you live in the midst of bad people, bad books, and bad things, you lose your power of detecting bad thoughts when they come teeming about you like microbes. But if every day you spend an hour on God's mountains or upon the broad sea of the Bible, and get some of God's accurate senses into you, you will be able to detect things which are wrong that other people, even Christians, pass without seeing as wrong.”*
— F.B. Meyer Upon further reflection of this passage and principle, how can one go about to assess his or her priorities in life? Read II Corinthians 3:18 and share how this verse relates to the quality of Godliness in one’s life?