

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

Communion and Baptisms

Pastor John: Genesis 35:6-7

Sunday, November 8, 2015

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

1. If you were in the 11 am service, you would have seen 2 testimonies/baptisms. Share the experience with your group.
2. Laura Bonney, a missionary in Uganda, shared with us regarding a new Christian curriculum geared to young people, and it's called VOICE, or Values Orientation in Classroom Education. These are challenging times in Uganda where the average age of the population is only 14 years, so there are many opportunities to reach out to these young people. The basic tenets of VOICE is the teaching of Truth, and this teaching is facilitated by 5 special modules that explore different aspects of Biblical character and behavior:

ITEM	MODULE THEME	BIBLICAL REFERENCE	YOUR BIBLE OWN VERSE/CLASSROOM PLAN
1	HONESTY	PROV.12:13	
2	FORGIVENESS	COL.3:13	
3	MORAL PURITY	I THESS.4:3	
4	SELF-CONTROL	PROV.25:28	
5	OBEDIENCE	PROV 13:13	

Read each Bible reference for each module as it relates to the theme of that module, then reflect on any additional verses/passages of scripture that you can contribute to teaching the theme of the module, or supplement with a Biblical example that might help in teaching a classroom of young people. In other words, here's an opportunity for you to do a lesson plan for a class!

3. What were some of the key prayer needs expressed by Laura Bonnie? Discuss the importance of prayer in the support of our missionaries working in the various parts of the world.
4. At this time of remembrance, discuss the significance of our monthly celebration of communion and the sacrifice that was made for us, and the sacrifice that others made for us as noted during our annual ceremonies recognizing our veterans.
5. How has God proven throughout the Bible, that He is a covenant keeping God (cite examples)? How does the covenant receive its completion in the cross? How has God kept his covenant with you?
 - Connect the cross to El Bethel. How does the covenant receive its completion in the cross?

6. Pastor John reviewed Genesis 35: 3 as a reminder of God's Tenacious Grace towards each one of us, and he proposed a simple outline of Truth, Testimony and Table for us to meditate on. In discussing the first item of Truth, Pastor John reiterated just how 'faithful' God had been to Jacob in terms of keeping His Word and Promises. As a testament to the people in your Life Group, share with one another some of the examples of God's faithfulness in your own life. Going on with Testimony/Table, read through I Corinthians 11:23-26; how might we continue to 'proclaim the Lord's death until He comes' other than by corporately breaking bread and the cup?
7. Jacob declares TRUTH when he changes the name of Luz (Bethel) to El Bethel - meaning that God is faithful to his people even when they are not faithful to Him. How do you proclaim this truth?
8. Grace is huge. Take time to talk about it. Where does it originate? When did it begin? Who receives grace? Why is it given? What are its limits? How have you experienced grace?
9. Jacob gives TESTIMONY to his sons of the Lord's love and grace. It is Relentless, Tenacious, Contending, Intrusive and Renovating. Can you point out ways in which that grace was effective in Jacob's life?
10. To be relentless is to be unyielding and persistent in your pursuit of something or someone. To be tenacious is to keep a firm hold on something. How does God show that He is both relentless and tenacious in the following Bible stories?
 - Jonah
 - Abraham
 - Paul
 - The people of Israel as a whole
11. In this week's sermon, God's Grace was spoken of as renovating, a word often used when describing the teardown and rebuilding of a ruined old home. Why is it necessary for Christ to renovate our heart and soul when He takes over?
 - When a home is torn apart and renovated, they leave the foundation and remove the rotted or undesired parts before rebuilding. What are the undesired parts in your own life?
12. Consider how this passage in Gen 35 outlines the way back for any believer who has grown cold and indifferent by failing to walk in the path which God has made clear.