

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 25, 2010

Passage: Various

Memory Passage: John 5:39-40

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

This week we will continue our series on what we believe about the Bible. We are going to look at the message of the Bible. In essence, we will be answering the question, "What is the central message of the Bible?"

- (a) **Read Genesis 3:15.** To whom is Genesis 3:15 addressed? Who else is around when this judgment is pronounced? What does this point toward later in history (Isaiah 53:5; Luke 1:26-33; 1 Corinthians 15:57)? How would this promise change the outlook of mankind as it progressed forward?
- (b) **Read Genesis 1:26-31.** What was the purpose of Man according to this passage? How were we to be in the image of God (*imago dei*)? What would the world be like if we carried out this purpose fully? How would that bring glory to God?
- (c) How did sin interrupt this (Romans 5:12)? How does God's promise in Genesis 3 give hope that this would be corrected? How does this affect how you see what you do? How are you fulfilling your purpose and how does that show the glory of God?
- (d) *Family:* Read Genesis 1:26-31. Why were we created? How are we created in the likeness of God? What does it mean to subdue the earth? What does this mean that your life is to be about? How do you think we are supposed to do this? How important is this responsibility?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Genesis 12:1-3.** How does God's command to Abraham shape how we see what faith looks like? What are the promises made to Abraham in this passage?
- (b) According to these verses, what was the purpose behind God's blessing of Abraham? What are we to think about God's purposes for blessing us? To what extent was God wanting to use Abraham as a blessing?
- (c) **Read Genesis 17:1-8.** What is promised to Abraham? What will his relationship be with the other nations? Read Galatians 3:13-16. According to Paul, how does Abraham's promise reach fulfillment in Christ?
- (d) So what was the general plan for Abraham and his descendants? Did God ever mean for His blessings to be isolated to the nation of Israel? What was the purpose behind blessing this one nation? How did Christ bring this to fulfillment?
- (e) *Family:* Read Genesis 12:1-3. What does God ask Abraham to do? Does Abraham know where he is going? What does God promise Abraham? Who is Abraham going to be a blessing to? Can you see how God's plan has always been to have the earth filled with His glory?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 2 Chronicles 6:32-33.** This passage is taken from Solomon's prayer at the consecration of the temple. What is Solomon asking the Lord to do in this passage? Why does he ask the Lord to do this? How does this connect with the purposes that we were made for?
- (b) **Read Isaiah 56:6-7.** How does this passage focus on the extent of God's plan for Israel? What did God want the temple to be?
- (c) **Read Isaiah 42:1-9.** What are the qualities of the person being discussed? In verse 6, who does God give the Servant to as a covenant? What does this mean? How does this continue what God has always been about?
- (d) *Family:* Do question (b). What does God want for the nations of the world?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read John 5:39-40, 45-47.** Jesus is talking to the Jews while in Jerusalem. What mistake had the Jews made concerning the Bible? How were they trying to use the scripture?
- (b) How does Jesus instruct them on what the scriptures are about? How have we seen the scriptures pointing toward Christ over the past few days? How was His message different from that of the Jews (Matthew 23:23-24)?

(c) **Read Luke 24:44-47.** What did Jesus come to fulfill? How has He fulfilled these things? What importance do the Scriptures have in our lives according to this passage? Why did Christ come to die?

(d) Do you think of the message of the Bible as being a global message? How do you see yourself play a role in being part of that? What has God's purpose for man been from the very beginning (Genesis 1:28)? How does this align with Christ's purposes here? Are you fulfilling this role in your life? How so?

(e) *Family:* Read John 5:39-40. What does Jesus say the whole point of the Bible is? How can we receive eternal life? What does it mean to come to Jesus?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Revelation 5:11-14; 7:9-12.** If you were to sum up the actions of everyone in the passage, what one word would you use? Who is involved in doing these actions? What is the message that is being proclaimed in these passages?

(b) How is this passage related to Genesis 1:28 and the intent of God from the beginning? What importance does this place for us on missions and our involvement in them? How are we to be involved in moving God's message out?

(c) **Read Matthew 28:18-20.** What are the two actions that we are called to in this passage? What does it mean to make disciples? How is this different from converting someone or persuading someone or "getting someone saved"? How long will we be disciples?

(d) What are the ways in which we make disciples? How does this further God's plan from the beginning? What is your role? Is making a disciple just evangelizing people? Is making a disciple just teaching people about God? How are you actively discipling others? If not, why not?

(e) *Family:* Read Matthew 28:18-20. What is Jesus calling us all to do? What does it mean to be a disciple? How is it different from being a student? How does this make us a part of what God called us to do in Genesis 1:28?

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Psalm 22:22-31. Are you worshipping the Lord with every part of your life? Are you actively spreading worship of the Lord? How is this a part of what we were made for? No matter what you do, you were made to do this through it. How can you begin to join God in His purpose and His plan? Where are your desires not in line with His?

DATE: April 25, 2010

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The Message of the Word of God

"May the whole earth be filled with His glory!"