

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Sept 15, 2019

Building For The Future: Finding Your Footwork

Pastor Conway (8, 10:30 Selah), Pastor Temple (9:15, 10:30 Fest.)

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met or about applying last week's message on Abounding In Hope: A Future With Hope (Jer. 29:4-13)?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

Opener Question: Why do you choose to be a part of a small group Bible study?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, Psalm 119:105-114. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

¹⁰⁶ I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.

¹⁰⁷ I have suffered much; preserve my life, LORD, according to your word.

¹⁰⁸ Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws.

¹⁰⁹ Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law.

¹¹⁰ The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts.

¹¹¹ Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

¹¹² My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.

¹¹³ I hate double-minded people, but I love your law.

¹¹⁴ You are my refuge and my shield, I have put my hope in your word.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- How does the image of a lamp shedding light on a footpath speak to you as one attempting to be a follower of the way and a student of His word?
- The Psalms are expressions of song and praise and prayer. Psalm 119 in particular focuses on the blessings of God's word or laws. Each of the eight lines of the 22 sections begin with the same Hebrew letter in a progression that eventually covers all 22 letters in the alphabet in the 27 sections in a creative compilation of scripture fragments and styles. Have you ever considered writing a letter to God as a spiritual discipline? Why or why not?
- What do you think are the benefits of incorporating scriptures into our prayers in a thoughtful way?
- How do you think Christianity would have evolved if it weren't for the scriptures?

- What does it mean to make God's word our heritage forever (vs 11)?
- How does God use his word in the lives of believers?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read out loud Acts 17:1-12. In Thessalonica, after three sabbaths of teaching about Jesus from the scriptures in the synagogues, Paul and Silas gained some Jews and many gentiles among their following (vs 1-4). The jealousy of some of the Jews led them to run Paul and Silas out of town however (verses 5-10). Why do you think many of the Jews at Thessalonica missed out in understanding who Jesus was?
- What kind of response did Paul and Silas receive in Berea (vs 10-12)?
- Why do you think those in Berea see the Son in the scriptures where many in Thessalonica did not?
- How do you account for such extremely different reactions in people today to Jesus Christ as presented in scripture?
- Would a volunteer please read out loud Acts 17:1-12. What does it mean to allow the word of Christ to dwell in us richly and what does that require of us?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- What steps can you take this week that would show God that you are taking Him at His word?
- What places times or resources would you be open to explore this week to grow in a dedicated time of scripture reflection?
- What has been your experience in reading scripture on screens verses in paper Bibles in terms of "deep reading" or meditating on the word of God? How about in navigating the text or having a sense of the larger scope of the books?
- How has taking the time for individual Bible study and reflection been a blessing for you?
- Is there a particular scripture text that recently has spoken to you?
- Have you considered have a Bible you write in to leave behind to family members to remember you and your faith by after you are gone? Are you open to it?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- Did you know there was a bring your Bible to school day set for October 3rd?
- If you were to bring a Bible or a Christian book with you at times in public settings how might it be a conversation starter with others? (P.S. this has happened to me at starbucks some...)
- Are you open to occasionally carrying a Bible or Christian book with you in public? Why or why not?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer