

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of October 17, 2021

Let's Get Serious: Becoming a World Christian- Declaring His Glory, Psalm 96

Pastor Johnson- 8:30 & 10:30 Contemporary, Pastor Hall- 10:30 Traditional

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

- Anything to share about personal events or faith experiences since you last met?
- Are there 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)

- **Opening Discussion Question-** How has this month's focus on missions, both local and global, impacted your sense of purpose in the body of Christ?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the scriptures from this week's sermon message and then discuss the questions which follow as time allows. There are more questions than you will have time for, so it is ok to be selective.

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. ² Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. ⁴ For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. ⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. ⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth. ¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. ¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. ¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

1. If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
2. There are at least 13 references to all of creation or the whole world in the passage above and at least 3 references to God's absolute reign. Why would this naturally lead one to praise and rejoicing?

3. Pastor Deandre described singing (verses 1-2) is like a superpower for Christians. How have you found singing songs about God to affect your heart or outlook?
4. Verses 5-6 refer to the other gods of the nations as idols. What would you say are the equivalent false gods of today's world that people look to instead of the triune Godhead who is maker of the heavens, the earth and all that is in it?
5. How do you believe the Lord is bringing the waywardness of the world back into proper relational alignment with Him with resonant rejoicing?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

1. Would a volunteer please read aloud the story of Jesus speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4:1-30, focusing in particular on verses 21-26.
2. How does the mission of Jesus Christ as Messiah change where worship for the people of God can most meaningfully happen?
3. According to Jesus what kind of worshippers is the Lord seeking? What does this mean?
4. Even though this worship movement that Jesus started was a new one, how was it also anchored to the past (Old Testament times)?
5. How do you believe the Samaritan woman would read or embrace the message of Psalm 96 after her encounter with Jesus?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

1. As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
2. The imperative (commanding) verbs of Psalm 96 are sing, declare, ascribe, worship, say/tell, and rejoice. Which of these would you adopt into your schedule this week to pursue in a new way?
3. Ascribe is how the Hebrew word "yahar" is translated when it is in connection with the glory of the Lord. Ascribe means to identify the cause of something but Yahar can also be translated to give, provide, bring or come. What good things in your life over that past week can you attribute to God's presence and activity and give Him glory for?
4. Pastor Michelle suggested that singing a new song to the Lord means not taking today for granted and being present to God (vs 1). What events or situation of the past week are ones that we can place before God as an offering and invitation for His glory to enter into in a new way?

Witness and Closing (10 minutes)

- How are we as individuals or as a church embracing the charge to tell all the nations the Lord reigns (vs. 10)?
- A volunteer may conclude by leading the group in prayer about the joys and concerns shared earlier in the meeting