

Thriving in Hostility

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, September 11, 2016

Insights on Exodus 1

How can they forget Joseph?

Q: How does someone forget their _____?

A:

Why were the Israelites held in Egypt?

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Thriving in hostility...

1. **We don't fight** _____,

we fight _____.

(1 John 5:18-20, Matthew 5:13-16)

2. **I have to stay** _____.

(John 15:1-17, Proverbs 3:5-6)

3. **I have to put his orders** _____.

(Matthew 26:36-46, Genesis 6:9-22)

4. **I have to** _____.

(Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:14-26)

Key to Thriving:

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to week 1 of our Small Group Session! We are glad that you have decided to take this journey digging into God's Word with others. I pray this is a time of growth, encouragement, and fun as you deepen friendships and make new friends along the way! This is a 10 week session of small groups as we will wrap the week of November 13th.

A little about myself to get us started:

Tell us a little bit about yourself. Where did you grow up? What are some of your favorite things? I.E. Food, Dessert,...

An Overview of our 'Small Groups':

As we all start out this week, our group leaders will review for us the values that our groups are built on.

Getting Started:

1. The book of Exodus is filled with amazing stories of God's faithfulness and work. Hollywood has tried to re-create these stories on the big screen several times. If you have seen any of these movies, how have these movies either accurately or inaccurately portrayed the Biblical account? What stories are you excited to study in the book of Exodus?

2. The Israelites were stuck in captivity for 400 years. It was during this time that we see God develop them into a nation by providing them purity, protection, and then giving them a purpose. Has there been a time in your life where God has put you into a "holding pattern?" What was the result of being in that "holding pattern?" What emotions and thoughts did you have during that time?

Quick Review: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper:

1. Fear is a powerful force in our lives that can cause a person to think and act irrationally. In Exodus 1:8-21 we see the Egyptians acting irrationally due to the fear of the growing Israelite population. What do the following passages teach us about fear?

- Psalm 111:10
- Isaiah 41:10
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- 1 John 4:18

How does God want us to deal with fear? When we are told to "fear God," what do you think that means? How does love cast out fear?

2. Dave talked this weekend about having spiritual influence in the lives of others. There is no "one size fits all" approach when it comes to this kind of impact because everyone is different. How could each of the following passages help shape how you go about having spiritual influence on others?

- Matthew 5:43-48
- 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
- 1 Peter 3:15-16

If you could spiritually influence anyone in your current circle of relationships to take a step closer to Jesus, who would you most like to see take that step?

Can you think of anything you could do or say that might help that happen?

3. When we are living in a place of hostility, there will be times when we face difficult and challenging circumstances. A common response to these circumstances is to wonder if God has forgotten us or if he really is in control. How might Romans 8:31-39 encourage us about God's care for us and his control of the future?

What is most challenging or difficult for you to appreciate from this passage?

4. We all have an important part to play in God's game plan to reach this world with his love and grace. What are some places where you believe God is calling you to "play your part?" What do you think it means to "play your part" when it comes to your family? Why do you think obedience is key to thriving?

Wrapping Up:

Based on last week's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out?

Take a few moments to take some prayer request and spend some time praying for the other members in your group.