

Who's Leading?

Insights on Exodus 17:1-7

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, February 26, 2017

A Key to Handle Personal Attacks:

(Exodus 17:1-7, 2 Samuel 16:5-14)

• If you are following God...

If the Lord is leading...

(Exodus 17:1-7, 14:4, 15:2, Numbers 11:10-15, Romans 12:14-21)

1. Trust God with the _____

and let him _____

- If you are leading...

2. Vent your frustrations with _____

- If you are leading...

3. Trust God with _____ on those attacking.

- If you are leading...

In the midst of the attacks...

(Exodus 17:5-7, 16:4, 13:21-22)

• Open your _____ to what God

is doing _____

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to "Week 7" of our Small Group Session!

Our small groups are where people move from 'believers' to 'belongers.' May we receive lots of encouragement and support and deepening friendships in weeks ahead as we meet together, pray together, and study God's Word together. This quarter our groups will meet for 13 weeks wrapping up the week of April 9th (the week before our Easter Celebration).

Getting Started:

1. Moses has been leading the Israelites for a short period of time and they have already grumbled against him many times. In chapter 17 the grumbling felt very personal and he felt he was in danger. Share a time when there was a person/people who were grumbling against you, so much that it made you feel uncomfortable or even threatened. What did you do about it? How was it resolved?

2. If we are truly following God then we need to let him lead, and be confident that he knows where he is leading us. Have you ever been on a road trip or other situation where you thought you knew where you were going, but then it turns out you were lost? How did you correct the problem? How did the other people in the car respond to you getting lost?

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. This weekend we heard that we should not necessarily seek our own revenge, but rather let God take care of it when others are attacking us. Doing that can be difficult because it can feel like the other person is getting away with something. In 1 Samuel 24:1-13, we see an example of David not seeking revenge, even though he had been wronged by Saul. How and why do you think David was able to not seek justice for himself?

What is the most challenging aspect for you in not seeking your own justice or revenge?

2. A key element in not taking our own revenge and letting God bring about justice is being able to forgive the other person who was attacking you. How does Psalm 139:17-24 help you balance forgiveness with asking God to enact justice on your behalf?

What is your understanding on the difference between revenge and justice?

3. An important point of this weekend's message was to make sure God is leading. If people attack when God is leading, then it is God's problem to deal with not necessarily yours. But even when we're following close to God it can still be confusing as to what actions we should take and/or avoid when we're under attack. As you read Romans 12:9-21 jot down anything that is important for you to remember when the attack is on.

Looking back at your list, what 2 or 3 points are the most important for you to remember? How might you remember them this week when you are faced with attacks?

4. So often when we are faced with attacks our world becomes consumed with nothing else but what we feel is happening to us. The Israelites were afraid not only for their own lives, but their children, and their livestock as well. Because of their fear, their trust was quenched. God was still with them in the form of the cloud and he had provided their food that morning in the form of quail and manna, and yet they still asked, "Is the Lord among us or not?" How do we not allow our circumstances to consume us to the point of wondering if God is even present with us or not?

What are practical things we can do to remind us of God's presence in the midst of hard circumstances.

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.