

Becoming More Free

Insights on Exodus 23:20-33

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, May 7th, 2017

Freedom Insights from Exodus 23:20-33:

1. God's presence is assured _____

(Exodus 23:20, Matthew 28:18-20, John 14:15-18, Hebrews 13:5)

2. The two parts of _____ :

(Exodus 23:24, James 2:14-26, James 1:22-25,)

- Right _____

- Right _____

3. God's plan is to grow us _____

(Exodus 23:30, Philippians 1:9, 3:12, 1 John 3:1-3)

- Have I grown spiritually this past year?

- What little steps do I need to take today?

4. The land was a gift, and so is _____

(Exodus 23:31, Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 4:4-7)

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to "Week 2" of our Small Group Session!

We are beginning our final small group session before summer.

This is a great opportunity to study God's word for personal growth, but also a chance to help others grow from your own experiences. Small groups will wrap up the week of June 11th for our summer break.

Getting Started:

1. Part of being in a small group is to celebrate spiritual victories together. As you look back over the past few weeks is there anything we can glorify God for in your life? Was there any steps of faith you have taken that we can celebrate together? Any acts of obedience to celebrate? Remember, small groups are a great place to share hurts and pains, but also encouragement as we step out in faith by sharing our faith with others.

2. If you created a spiritual growth timeline for your life, how would it look? Would it show steady growth or ups and downs? Did you grow a lot more at certain times than you do now? Are you wondering what happening now?

When you noticed times of noticeable growth, is there anything particular you would attribute it to?

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 how getting to the promised land happens one step at a time, “little by little.”

Unfortunately “one step at a time” can seem way too slow for our preferred timing, leaving us wondering what God is really up to. How do the following verses speak to and/or give us perspective when it comes to operating on God’s timing and not our own?

- Galatians 6:9-10

- Isaiah 55:8-9

- 2 Peter 3:8-9

- Ephesians 2:10

2. One of the enemy’s best strategies to cause Christians to live a defeated life is to make them think they need to always take “giant leaps” to grow. He doesn’t want us to realize that small consistent steps of obedience and spiritual health result in significant growth over the long haul. What could be the result of putting the below verses into action over time?

- 1 Thessalonians 5:17

- Ephesians 4:29

- Psalm 1:2-3

- 1 Peter 4:8-10

How could these verses encourage us when we don’t see change in our own lives or in our neighborhoods as quickly as we would like to see?

3. We see throughout the book of Exodus God fighting on behalf of his people. It is very clear that God is the champion, and the land he was giving them was a gift. The people of Israel didn’t deserve it or even earn it. Really the story of the land is similar to the way of our salvation. God pursued us through his death and resurrection on the cross, and invites us to join his family through faith. Read Galatians 4:4-7 together. Does this passage reflect your current relationship with Christ? Do you know that you are a son or daughter of God? How does this knowledge impact the way you live? How can God want to use you this week to share this news with your neighbor?

4. In Exodus 23:33 God tells the Israelites to get rid of all the Canaanites from the land so they don’t become a snare to them. Read Psalm 1 and John 17:14-19 together. How do these verses help us as we live amongst the world without become ensnared by the temptations and traps of the world?

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? What is one thing you would be able to share this week with another person? As you live this out be ready to share some “success” stories next week with your group!

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