

Why all the Plagues???

(Insights from Exodus 8:1 - 11:10)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, November 13th, 2016

The Plague Progression:

1. The Nile turns _____
Exodus 7:14-25
2. _____ everywhere!
Exodus 8:1-15
3. _____ everywhere!
Exodus 8:16-19
4. _____ everywhere!
Exodus 8:20-32
5. _____ decimated
Exodus 9:1-7
6. _____ break out!
Exodus 9:8-12
7. A deadly _____
Exodus 9:13-35
8. _____ everywhere!
Exodus 10:1-18
9. _____ for 3 days
Exodus 10:21-39
10. The angel of _____
Exodus 11:1-10

Principles Behind the Plagues:

1. God desires to set ...

- including those ...

2. Circumstances either ...

- avoid commitment ...

3. God's judgment is preceded ...

- and ...

Ezekiel 33:11, Revelation 3:14-22

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to the last week (week 10) of this season of our small groups at GPC! For the past few months as we have met together, it has been our hope that we would provide the encouragement and accountability we all need to walk closer to our God and develop more Christ-like character as we apply the truths we have learned in this series through the first 11 chapters of Exodus. The plan is to take a break for Thanksgiving and thru December and start back up with the second half of Exodus in January.

Getting Started:

Speaking of politics ... (ok that is a brave way to start this discussion guide) if you were elected President, what character qualities would you like to exhibit as you begin to lead our country?

More in line with our Exodus study, this past Sunday we looked at all the plagues in Exodus 8-11. They dealt with all kinds of things including frogs, gnats, flies and locusts. Looking back on all of your lovely experiences with animals, what has been one of the more unpleasant/painful results from you relating to the animal kingdom?

This past week we heard about the importance of patience. Rate the following situations from least to the most (using the number system 1 thru 6) that cause you to be impatient:

- ___ a slow driver in the fast lane
- ___ a person paying with exact change
- ___ a long voicemail message
- ___ calling your internet service provider
- ___ traffic
- ___ other

Look back at your notes from last week's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or raised some questions?

Digging Deeper:

1. As Christ followers, we are encouraged to have the same love, kindness and patience God has with us toward those that seem to have something against us or God. Putting this into action can be no small challenge. As you read the following verses, write down how they may help you not fall into 'quick judgment' but instead extend the hope of God's love and patience in these difficult situations.

1 Peter 4:8, Galatians 6:1-5, James 5:20

Looking back at these verses, which one is potentially most helpful to you in regards to your motives, actions and patience?

2. At times, it is tempting to believe God is not working or paying attention when we're being called to be 'patient' and let God work. The reality is God has a way of meeting us where we are. What encouragement do you find in the following passages for continuing to trust and follow God even when the going gets tough?

Matthew 11:28-30, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

Can you think of any times in your life when you experienced the rest, comfort or hope talked about in these verses?

3. In Exodus 8-11, we saw how the intensity of the plagues kept growing until the Pharaoh finally decided to let the Israelites go free. In his case, it took a growing series of problems to finally get him to change his mind and actions. As he was struggling with the decision, he kept trying to make conditions on their leaving. A total surrender is the hardest surrender but it is the only one God will honor. He waits for us to come to him without conditions. When you first accepted Christ or since then, what was hard for you to hand over to God or trust Him with? Read Romans 12:1. In offering our lives to God, what can help us to give Him our complete trust and all aspects of our lives?

WRAPPING UP ...

In honor of Thanksgiving, what are you thankful for these days? What good have you experienced since last Thanksgiving that you can share with the group?

Looking back on the last few months, how has being a part of our small group helped you grow? How has this group stretched you, encouraged you, challenged you, loved you, sharpened you, ... ?

Until we meet again, how can we pray for each other?