

Exodus
The Talk- Week #6
Small Group Notes
September 10 and 13

Main Point: A part of our faith journey is seeing how God's plan is better than our plan and we learn what to expect along the journey.

Introduction: As you begin your group time, consider these questions.

Think about a hard situation that you have experienced, how did God trusting in God compare to the other people or things in life?

On your faith journey, have you ever struggled with hard questions such as why God allows seasons of hardship and suffering? If so, what conclusions have you come to?

When you contemplate powerful or destructive events, where do you perceive God in the midst of them? Do you think He's still present? Explain.

Today we are going to look at a time where Moses and Aaron went both to the children of Israel and Pharaoh to discuss the plans of God. Both had questions and were resistant and so often we can see ourselves with these same attitudes when God reveals the purpose of our lives.

In the sermon, Pastor Brady mentioned that Moses and Aaron were going to have the talk with these groups. For us we are going to discuss, what should we expect as results from having the talk with God in our lives?

Discuss: What should we expect from the "the Talk?"

1. Expect Delays,

- Read Exodus 4:29-31 and 5:1-3.
- Spiritual battles aren't won overnight. Read John 12:24.
- God is working a plan in your life and that plan is going to play out differently than you think. Read Genesis 15:12-16.

Explain: Moses still had to go and share with the people of God's plan. In this moment, we see their response was to worship. They realized that God heard their cry for mercy and was willing to come to their help. Yet we also see Pharaoh's reaction to the same call for worship, which brought about the eventual discouragement of the people.

Ask:

What are ways that you have seen spiritual battles linger? How does the principle of John 12:24 regarding planting requires establishing the roots before the stem apply in your life currently?

Consider your life five years ago, did you see you sitting here today or in another place? Why?

2. Expect the be misunderstood

- Read James 4:4.

Explain: So often Christians try to look so much like the world that they look like a friend to the world. The call to follow Christ means that we are going to think different, act differently and be different so that people see us different from the world.

Ask:

Have you ever made a decision that the world would look at and misunderstand? (Examples: Attending church, tithing, not consuming alcohol).

What are ways that we can use the times that we are misunderstood as evangelistic moments?

3. Expect trouble.

- Read Exodus 5:4-12.
- Never expect that carrying out God's commands will increase our own comfort.
- Read John 16:33. In life; peace is possible, trouble is promised, and victory is certain.
- When the enemy takes your straw, remember it is a great time for growth and His glory. Read James 1:2-4.

Explain: Pharaoh would have previously used his own fields to be harvested for the ability to make straw. Yet now we see that the Hebrew people were to use their own straw or however they were able to find it and yet continued the same quota of bricks to be made. It was a terrible act of cruelty. It also showed that even though the people were the promised children of God, they still encountered trials.

Ask:

What may be situations that we face currently that may bring about trouble for following Jesus? Why should we embrace these moments?

What does the example of the Hebrews encourage you to press forward in difficult moments?

4. Expect amnesia.

- Read Exodus 5:22-23. Worldly opposition tends to breed spiritual amnesia.
- Discouragement sets in when we read God through the lens of our current circumstances instead of his eternal promises.
- Stones of remembrance can be a powerful tool to combat spiritual amnesia.

Explain: God demonstrated His grace to the people and the work of miracles. They had previously worshipped Him when Moses first shared the plans (Exodus 4:29-31) and now they were discouraged.

Ask:

Have you ever demonstrated spiritual amnesia? What moments do you most often see it occur?

How can having someone hold you accountable help you prevent spiritual amnesia?

Do:

What false expectation has fueled your discouragement?

What are some stones of remembrance that you can have in your life?

Who in your life helps you keep a humble heart toward the Lord? Do you have a friend or mentor whom you give permission to ask you difficult questions?