

LifeGroup Discussion guide

Feb. 14th sermon

Sermon Summary- Jody taught about being “with God” in a more intimate way. He showed us many verses that tell us if we love God, we will obey his commands. We considered how obeying God’s commands should not be a burdensome task, but one that allows us to commune more fully with God. We learned that the ability to be more fully with God requires us to be holy. The more holy we become, the more “with God” we can be. And the more “with God” we are, the more joy we experience.

Scripture Reference:

I John 5:3

Specific Discussion Questions

- 1) What does it mean to obey God’s commands? The ten commandments? Love your neighbor? More?
- 2) How can we possibly be holy enough to be truly intimate with God?
- 3) On a scale of 1 to 10, how “with God” would you rate yourself right now? Explain.
- 4) What will you do to be more obedient, more holy, and more “with God”?

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LifeGroup Leader Notes

With God

Sermon synopsis: Obedience is the opportunity to share experience

Regardless of our religious background we all have the same basic need to WITH others. God is a community and we are in His image. WITH makes things better in the little things (hot chocolate WITH whip cream). WITH connects with our deepest longings. God desires to be WITH and among us – a pillar of fire, the ark, the temple, Immanuel, the Holy Spirit. The presence of God is a blessing. To be with God, He calls us to be holy (Lev 19). This is an imperative command and a statement of the necessary relationship (grounds or basis) with God. Being holy requires obedience. But obedience is not just following God's rules. Obedience is the way we can share experience WITH God. Leviticus 19 speaks to examples of His commands giving us way to walk WITH God (see below). Looking at obedience this way changes it from a potential obligation or chore to an experience WITH Him. God's commands are an avenue to being with Him in more than one way. Relationship requires doing – union and communion come when we do as God would do. We establish a more intimate connectedness that reflects the values that God holds when we obey and do as He would do. We cannot have the relationship in our terms though – each act either brings us closer in communion with God or farther away. Our degree of obedience aligns WITH our degree of relationship. God says He would make His home with us (home = a place of intimate living). John tells us that God's commands are not burdensome – and when we see them as a way to fellowship with God – they are not burdensome. We need to reflect on our motives and attitude in our obedience.

Scripture reading:

Key Verse: I John 5:3

Other verses: Lev 19:1-2 (be holy for God is holy); John 14:15-16 (God with us); John 14:21, 23 (love, obey, see, WITH)

Examples of opportunities to share experience with God

These are examples of concepts showing God's heart and how we can share the experience through our actions -

1. Lev 19:3 – honoring your father and mother – what God would do; He is a God that honors
2. Lev 19:9-10 – Gleaning law – leaving harvested food for those less fortunate – God has kingdom concerns; He cares for all the citizens
3. Lev 19:14 – honor the disabled – Do unto others
4. Lev 19:16 – Speak the truth; Value your neighbors safety – Be with God in doing this together
5. Lev 19:32 – Helping the elderly

More Discussion Options:

1. *When did I give God's love this week?*
2. *Where did I receive God's love this week?*
3. *In what ways did I notice God?*
4. *Was I attentive to opportunities for fellowship with God through obedience?*
5. *When did I fail God and why?*
6. *Where was God and did I miss or connect with Him?*
7. *Do I see obedience as an everyday opportunity to share experience with God?*

Encouragement points:

- *Reflect – Ask God for the eyes to look deep into every opportunity to be WITH Him through obedience. His grace is sufficient to meet us where we live and carry us forward in joyful life with Him.*