

West Towne Circles Discussion Guide

Out of Darkness

Week Six: Remember, Remember

When we were children...and especially teenagers...many of us responded with "But Dad!" or "But Mom!" in protest to what we were being told to do or not do. Sometimes we even used the phrase in protest of an apparent parental inconsistency. "But Dad/Mom! You said we are supposed to obey the law, but you are going over the speed limit!"

As we grew older, we all tend to direct this same kind of protest toward God. Often our protest results from us seeing something that seems contrary to God's direction while appearing to bring us pleasure, popularity, possessions, or power.

Protest because of something we want or don't want to do

Can you think of any circumstances when you protested and disregarded God's directions, but they turned out to be wise counsel after all? You don't have to share, but it might help others if you do.

Can you think of any of God's directions that you protested and disregarded and still aren't sure if God isn't wrong about it? Again, you don't have to share, but the honest confession in your group may help lead to common ground and possibly answers for you and others.

Protest because of something God did or didn't do

Have you ever protested an apparent inconsistency in God's character (i.e. killing babies)? Have you resolved your protest? If so, how? If not, how do you handle this unresolved protest?

Protest because of God's unconditional love

Do you ever protest God's unconditional love because of your sins? If so, how do you resolve this protest?

Have you ever protested God's unconditional love because you felt like someone else didn't deserve it? What have you done to resolve this?

Protest to Possibilities

In Exodus 6 and the beginning of 7, Moses reveals that he protested because he was unwilling, unqualified, and unfit to do what God was telling him to do. Moses wants the reader to know that it was only possible because of God. Moses is saying, "I couldn't have done this, but God did." Can you think of occasions when you couldn't have gotten through it or accomplished it without God? If you are comfortable, share some of these with your group as a testimony to God's power and love.

Covenant

Moses refers back to the covenant God made with Abram (God then changed his name to Abraham). What stands out to you about that covenant recorded in Genesis 15.

Read Exodus 6:6-8. God gives 6 action verbs that He will do to accomplish His covenant with Abraham. The 6 action verbs foreshadow what Jesus came to do for us. Which of the 6 actions are you most excited about? Why?

Group Prayer

You've possibly already shared some unresolved protests to ask God about and shared some praises for times God provided when you couldn't. Are there other things on your heart to lift up to God in prayer? Spend some time praying together.