

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 3, 2010

Passage: 2 Chronicles 16:9

Memory Passage: 2 Chronicles 16:9

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Leviticus 26:1-2; Deuteronomy 28:1-2.** The Torah or Pentateuch (Genesis-Deuteronomy) form the foundation for our understanding of all the Bible. Knowing the Torah and what it says is essential for us to understand not only the Old Testament as a whole but also the New Testament. What sort of central command are we left with in these two passages about how Israel was to relate to God?

(b) Read 1 Samuel 15:22. This is one of the most poignant passages in 1 Samuel. How does it reflect the previous verse from question (a)? What does this say about connection between duty and true obedience in God? What qualifies as obedience?

(c) What are some things that you do out of more a sense of duty than true obedience? Why is it easy to do the “right” things but with the wrong attitude or motives? Read 1 Samuel 12:19-25. How and why is God worthy of obedience here? This idea of God desiring sole dedication to Him is a theme that is constantly repeated throughout 1 and 2 Samuel.

(d) *Family:* Read Leviticus 26:1-2; Deuteronomy 28:1-2. Genesis-Deuteronomy form the foundation for our understanding of all the Bible. Knowing the Torah and what it says is essential for us to understand not only the Old Testament as a whole but also the New Testament. What sort of central command are we left with in these two passages about how Israel was to relate to God? What is the difference between getting to do something and having to do something? How does God want us to worship Him? Do you think of worshiping God as a “get to” or a “have to”? Pray that the Lord would give you a passion to worship Him.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) A key theme in Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy) is the presence of God with His people and with His servants. This is continued to be placed in a high importance in 1 and 2 Samuel. It is often the focal point of stories as we look at both the characters and the Ark of the Covenant. Read 1 Samuel 3:19; 4:4; 16:13. What attributes concerning the presence of God are described in these passages?

(b) Read 2 Samuel 6:1-12. We see in this story that God’s presence can bring both judgment and blessing. It is not something either that can be manipulated according to our own whims. How does David fail to take into account the proper reverence for God’s presence?

(c) Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. How does this passage describe our relationship with God? Do you take the presence of God living within you seriously? How would we act with regards to what we eat, what we watch, what we listen to, and what we do if we took these words seriously? Is there anything that needs to change in your life? Ask God to give you the strength to change and confess to Him your sin and need of Him.

(d) *Family:* Read (a) and answer the question. How would you act if you were in the very presence of God? Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. How should we live in light of God’s presence in us? What do you need to change? Ask God to give you the strength to change and confess to Him your sin and need of Him.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 3.** The theme of God raising up individuals to lead His people is something that is carried over from earlier scriptures and continues even today. Samuel and David have unique callings in scripture. Their selection is very different from Saul’s. How does this passage show how an unlikely candidate can often be the very one that God chooses?

(b) How is it that Samuel responds when he realizes that God is calling him? How willing would you be to bring such bad news? What does it say about Samuel’s character that he faithfully delivered this message?

(c) What message has God given everyone of us to deliver (Matthew 28:18-20)? We all have different spiritual gifts? What role do you think God has for you to play in the Great Commission? How are you being active in this?

(d) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 3. How does Samuel respond when Eli tells him that it might be God speaking to him? How would you respond? How does God speak to us today? What can we do to prepare ourselves to listen to God’s voice? Why is it important to know and to hear from God? Pray and ask God for ears to hear His voice.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 9:1-2; 10:17-24; 18:10-16.** Saul appears to be a man who has the making of a great king. These passages describe a man whose character does not match his appearance. Described as a tall man, he fails to have one key attribute. A heart that is devoted to God. Why do we need to be so careful about looking only at appearances?

(b) Read James 2:1-6. What does James say about those who do not appear to be the most wealthy? What does this teach us about the importance of faith? Why is it that the poor are rich in faith? What does this teach us about the importance of faith over wealth?

(c) *Family*: Read 1 Samuel 9:1-2; 18:10-16; James 2:1-6. Why do we need to be so careful about looking only at appearances? What does James say about those who do not appear to be the most wealthy? What does this teach us about the importance of faith over wealth? Pray that you might be a person of faith above all else.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel**. It is a good day for reading. One of the most helpful things in getting a sense in what a book of the Bible is all about is to read it from beginning to end in one sitting. The simple task is to read the text. Read quickly. This is not to know every nuance but to get the general sweep of the story.

(b) Take a few minutes when you are done and ask, “what is being taught to me in this book?” What is it teaching me about man’s relationships with man? What is it teaching about God’s relationship with man? What is it teaching me about God?

(c) *Family*: Read 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11 or 3:1-21 or maybe another story from 1 Samuel. Ask the questions that are given in

(b). Take some time and pray for one another.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Finish reading 1 Samuel if you didn’t yesterday. Go back over the questions from yesterday. How do the answers to these questions affect your relationship with God? What is something that you need to begin obeying the Lord with? Pray that the Lord would continue to strengthen and uphold you.

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A Heart for God

*“the eyes of the Lord run to and fro
seeking a blameless heart”*