

Week 1: The Good Book Small Group Notes

Opening Question: What is the point of Bible study?

“The ultimate benefit of reading the Scriptures isn’t greater familiarity with the Bible but deeper intimacy with God.”

Share 1-2 ground rules

Optional opener #1: Ask if someone wants to share how God spoke to them this week through His word and/or the devotionals. Celebrate what they shared.

Optional opener#2: Ask the group what they thought the point of each chapter they read was this week? (this will give you some insight into the thoughts of your group members) Celebrate what they shared.

Warnings

1. Keep track of time. If not careful, this could eat all your time,
2. What they share may give away some of what you prepared to teach

Here come the small group questions. I have given you enough for five small groups. Keep in mind there is no way you can cover a five days’ worth of stuff in 1-1.5 hours! You have a choice to make:

1. *Forget this and go with the Participants Book, especially if you are using the videos.*
2. *Cover a few questions from each of the five days.*
3. *Prayerfully pick one or two chapters and run with it. Try to pick based on the needs of your group.*

**Remember, the goal of small group is not to finish questions, but to disciple/share life in a relational environment.*

Thought Provoking Questions

Genesis 1:

1. What is the main theme of Genesis chapter 1? (Creation/beginnings)
2. Why is it so important for you to know chapter 1? (understand/know origin of everything, know the value of humanity, etc.)
3. What makes humanity unique from all other creation? (image of God)
4. What does it mean to have the image of God? (internally, we have a spirit; externally, we are relational beings. We have unique ability to relate to God and mankind, and some dogs-haha)
5. “Genesis 1 reveals two essential truths about who you are. First, you are not an accident. You are not the result of cosmic chance; you’re an intentional and individual creation of God. Second, God created you as an act of love. God is far from indifferent when it concerns you.” What does that say to you?

Genesis 3:

1. According to verses 4-6, how did Satan deceive Eve into disobeying God? What tactics did he use to convince her to eat the fruit? (be sure the answers given are based on the verses)
2. How does this relate to 1 John 2:16? (good for food- lust of flesh; delightful to look at- lust of eyes; desirable for being like God-pride of life)
3. How does this relate to how we disobey God?
4. Sin always has costs and consequences. What were some of the consequences Adam and Eve faced because of their sin?
5. How did Adam and Eve try to cover up their sin? (hide, leaves, shift blame to others)
6. How do we try to cover up our sin?
7. How did God "cover" them? (skins, something died to produce that covering)
8. How does God "cover" us? (cross of Christ)
9. What is stopping you from confessing and turning away from sin in your life?
10. "Only when we take responsibility for our decisions and actions do we open ourselves to God's forgiveness and restoration." How can we pray for you to grow in your relationship with God this year?

Genesis 6:

1. What grieves God?
2. We live in a fallen and sin-stained world. What are some of the daily reminders that sin is still affecting creation, culture, and our lives?
3. How do we see God's justice in this chapter? (verse 7, 12-13, 17)
4. How do we see God's patience and grace in this chapter? (120 years to repent, the sparing of Noah, verse 18)
5. According to verses 8, 9 and 22, what made Noah different from everyone else? (righteous, blameless, obedience- He did everything God commanded him)
6. Noah had faith and built the ark, just as the Lord commanded. Share about a time you followed the Lord's leading, taking a bold step of faith and doing something for him (small or large). What happened as a result of your obedience to God's leading?
7. What is God specifically calling you to do? What is stopping you from fully obeying?

Genesis 12:

1. What did God call Abram/Abraham to do? (verse 1)
2. Like Abram and Sarai, imagine leaving everyone and everything you've ever known. What do you think might have been going through their minds and hearts? Leaving a home or place that's familiar, loved, and full of memories is hard for anyone. Tell about a time you had to make a hard move and leave a place (and people) behind. How did this experience affect your heart and faith?
3. What did God promise to Abraham? (verse 2)
4. How do you define faith? (see Hebrews 11:1)
5. Some people view faith as agreement with specific doctrines or intellectual beliefs and nothing more. Others see it as core beliefs that shape their lives and transform their daily actions. What is the difference between these two understandings of faith?

6. What are some ways God has blessed you when you walked in faith and obedience?
7. In what area of your life is God asking you to trust Him in? What is stopping you from fully trusting in Him?

Genesis 22:

Say, "The key to rightly understanding this story is to remember what verse one says. God is testing Abraham. God's testing is often his way of helping us, even if we don't fully appreciate it at the time."

1. Think about the life of Abraham. What was Abraham and Sarah missing for most of their lives? (Children)
2. What would Isaac have meant to them, personally? (basically everything-provision in old age, continuation of family line, simple joy of a child, fulfilment of God's plan)
3. What are some things here on earth that you consider valuable to you? That you treasure more than most things?
4. (rhetorical question-don't answer aloud) Are there things or people that if God asked you to give up, leave behind or disconnect from that you would have a difficult time obeying? (let this question just simmer)
5. In asking Abraham to offer Isaac, did Abraham know what God was going to do? (No, but he knew God had a plan for Isaac. See verse 5 and Hebrews 11:17-19)
6. Do you have to know the outcome before you obey God?
7. Why do you think that God asked Abraham to "sacrifice" his son? (Remember, it was a test. Tests are to reveal something about ourselves. By the reaction of the Angel of the Lord in verse 12, Abraham must have become more focused on the gift [Isaac] than on the giver [God]. So, this test caused Abraham to put God as first place in his life).
8. What did Abraham's NOT withholding Isaac reveal? (12) And according to verses 15-18, what was Abraham's reward?
9. What are you withholding from God? It is a time issue? An act of service? Is it an opportunity to share your faith? Are you withholding financially what God has said to give away? What is it going to take to give it over to God?

Closing question every week:

How are you changed by what we learned? What is the takeaway for you?

Prayer:

- Thank God for the beauty, majesty, and wonder of his creation. Be sure to thank him for the people he has placed in your life.
- Confess the reality of sin and brokenness in our world and in your own life.
- Thank God that his grace is always enough.
- Ask God to help you live with a deep conviction that he can use you, and other people, who are imperfect and in the process of growing in Christlikeness.
- Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to help you grow to be more like Jesus each day.
- Commit to sacrifice anything God calls you to surrender as you follow Jesus and grow in faith.