

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Zechariah chapter 3

LEADER'S STUDY

God's plan of redemption:

God's ultimate plan of salvation and redemption is present on every page of scripture. He was working His plan to solve our sin problem since the very beginning and all of scripture points towards that. God has always been gracious and His death through Jesus is the ultimate demonstration of His grace towards us. While we were yet sinners Christ died for us. We were a stick that has been snatched from the fire. As you read this week look for Jesus in this chapter. Ask God to speak to you through this chapter and look for all the ways this points toward Jesus.

As you study, ask yourself questions like this. What is the context of this passage? Who is speaking? Who is Joshua? Why is he dressed in dirty clothes? What does this say about God's character? Are there differences in what I believe and what Scripture says? What does this look like in my life today? Do I believe that God has taken my sins away? Do I believe that God has given me all of Jesus's righteousness or do I believe that I still need to do more to be right before God? What response is God calling me to today based on His word? How is God inviting me to follow Him? How is God changing my thinking? Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: Colossians 3, Isaiah 61:10, Isaiah 64:6 Psalm 132:9, 2 Cor 5:17
What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

How is God calling you to think and to live differently? How does this change your perspective today? How is God calling you to respond based on this scripture? Spend some time reading this whole chapter and meditating on it as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word.

PREPARING BEFORE GROUP

PURPOSE: Life transformation through the Holy Spirit. He uses scripture and prayer to renew our minds and transform our lives!

PRAY: Pray for the people in your groups by name. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help you lead well as you meditate on key passages and seek to know God's heart.

PLAN: Since this is your first meeting of the semester, plan on some time at the beginning for people to get to know each other. Consider playing an icebreaker game so everyone feels comfortable talking together.

This is a great time to build vision for your group. Talk about what the goals and outcomes of this group could be. Help people know what to expect and get excited about what God does when we seek Him in His word together.

Review the group guidelines together and let people know what the schedule will be and then stick to it. It's OK to allow for some social time before and after your group but make sure people know when you are starting and ending your study and prayer time together. Part of hospitality is being sensitive to everyone's time.

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Zechariah chapter 3

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective.

(With larger portions of scripture like this, it's good for multiple people to read it aloud. Especially online, this helps people get used to using their voice)

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

STUDY QUESTIONS

What seems to be the main point of these verses?

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

How does this portion of scripture point to Jesus and the gospel?

What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?

Consider the perspectives of all the parties involved in this passage. Ask yourself why they responded the way they did.

How does this scripture change your thinking?

Why did God bring me to this scripture today?

What parts of this passage are challenging to your current way of thinking?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How are you going to obey this passage?

What is your "I will" statement?
(Encourage everyone to steer clear of "we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

With whom are you going to share what you have learned?
(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears the it. Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?