

Set Apart 6: Finding God's Word (Mar. 27, 29 & 31)

INTRODUCTION

(1) What is your favorite Scripture verse? (2) What does this verse speak to you? (about God, about you, about faith and about life etc.)

VIDEO & GROUP DISCUSSION

When God's people lose touch with their love for God and their identity in God, the church often falls into disrepair in many ways. People may make poor decisions based on fear. Others simply forget that the people of God are called to be set apart and the community of faith is called to be different than any other community on earth.

Q1 – Have you ever lost touch with your love for God? What was that season like for you?

Q2 – How did you come to remember your love for God and reconnect with the community of faith?

Read 2 Kings 22:11 & 15-20

¹⁵ The prophetess Huldah said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man (King Josiah) who sent you to me, ¹⁶ 'This is what the LORD says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people, according to everything written in the book the king of Judah has read. ¹⁷ Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and aroused my anger by all the idols their hands have made, my anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched.' ¹⁸ Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard: ¹⁹ Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people—that they would become a curse and be laid waste—and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I also have heard you, declares the LORD. ²⁰ Therefore I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place.'"

Q3 – What has God noticed about Josiah's heart? What is God's promise to Josiah?

Q4- What barriers do we face when it comes to reading God's word? How can we allow God's word to master our lives?

Q5 – How can we help others to fall in love again with God's love and the practice of reading the Bible? How can the Bible reclaim God's story in our lives, our families and the church?

Read Hebrews 4:12-16

¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of God to whom we must give account.

Q6 – What do these verses say about the power of Scripture in our lives?

Q7 – In what ways is God's word currently working within you to form who you are becoming? (not informational approach, but formational approach)

God is not distant deity, watching over us with indifference or disdain. God cares enough to come near to us in every way possible. He gave us His Word (the Bible) to help us know His heart.

Q8 - How have you known the nearness of God in your life? Have you ever experienced the blessing of God's presence in your life when you read the Bible?

Q9 – What does it mean to you to know that God's Word has been passed down from generation to generation all the way to you?

Q10 – How easy or difficult is it for you to memorize Scripture? Do you have any memorized scripture you can share with the group? How did you memorize Psalm 23 or John 3:16?

Read Psalm 119: 105-106

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

¹⁰⁶ I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow Your righteous laws.

Q11 – How did these verses inspire you to renew your love for God's word?

Read 2 Kings 23: 1-3

Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. ² He went up to the temple of the LORD with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD. ³ The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD—to follow the LORD and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.

Q 12- Reading the Word of God together inspired the Israelites under King Josiah to renew their covenant with God and motivated them to worship the One True God. How has reading and studying the Scripture with others inspired you to renew your relationship and commitment to God?

Q 13 – What does it mean for you to live as someone who is “set apart” for the Word of God?

Summary

Q14 – Among 6 Set Apart Practices (Being consecrated(anointed & chosen), listening to God's voice, Mentoring, Humility, Worshipping God only and studying God's word), which one challenges you the most and why?

Q15 – Complete the sentence and share – “Because of what I've learned for the last 6 weeks, I want to live differently by.....”

CLOSING PRAYER