

Lent - Holy Discussion Questions
3.13.16

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Questions

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. What does it mean to be jealous and avenging? Would you use these words to describe God?
2. How can you explain the balance between God being slow to anger, but great in power?

Background

Nineveh was the capital city of the Assyrian kingdom. The Assyrian's had taken the Northern Kingdom into exile and viciously attacked the Southern Kingdom in the hopes of wiping out all of the tribes of Israel. Nahum's prophecy about Nineveh is not the first time we see God paying attention to this traditional enemy of Israel. Jonah was sent to Nineveh to warn them of their impending destruction; if you read Jonah's story it becomes clear that the people of Nineveh responded to his warnings and God relented at that time. This outcome was different and the Southern Kingdom of Israel was spared, for the moment.

Read Nahum 1

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. According to verses 3 and 11, what moves God to unleash his wrath?
2. Who is the encouragement for that is found in verses 7 and 8?
 - If you look at verses 12 and 13 you will see God is talking to Judah who had been under siege by the Assyrians.
3. What are some of the actions of God described in this chapter?
4. When God unleashes his wrath on Nineveh who benefits according to verse 15?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. Is what is described in this chapter something other than senseless destruction? If so what is it?
2. How is God's wrath against his enemies exhibited today?
3. How do we balance the kindness and the wrath of God we see in this chapter?
4. Is God playing favorites by destroying Nineveh in order to rescue the Southern Kingdom?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. How is God's anger or wrath different than ours? How do we help the world understand the difference?
2. What are the situations that we experience that would cause people to experience God as he is described in this chapter?

3. How do we avoid painting God as celestial teddy bear and continue to include descriptions like this one in Nahum?

Closing

As we draw ever closer to the dark day we call Good Friday it is imperative to remember that not only did Jesus suffer physically from the beatings and being hung on a cross. While he was on the cross he also suffered spiritually as his Father withdrew from him for the first time. Take some time to pray for one another that once again we would appreciate all that Jesus has done for us. Also, use this lesson as a valuable reminder that God's wrath is not like our anger, but is an element of who he is. That means we cannot create God into a warm and fuzzy security blanket to be held onto only in the scary times; he is much more than that!

Reminder: There is only one who is holy and he sent his Son to become man to die for us that we could be in relationship with him once more. It is to him we give all our everything.