

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

Nov 5th

Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)

1. What family traditions do you have? Are there any that you would like to start?

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Jeremiah 35
 - What do you notice in this chapter?
 - How would you have reacted if you had been in the audience watching this scene play out?
 - What is God teaching his people?
2. The Rekabites proved that one could both live a life of faithful obedience and not be drawn into the crowd.
 - What do you think of as some modern day Rekabites today?
 - Why do we tend to struggle with both of these?
 - Does their example inspire or intimidate you?
3. Pastor Michael talked about the importance of having deep respect for God.
 - How did the Rekabites show a deep respect for their ancestor?
 - How does respecting God impact our obedience?
 - How do we develop that kind of respect for God?
4. In your words, why is God fully worthy of both your respect and honor?
5. Many Christians today regard God as a means to another reward instead of God being the reward himself.
 - Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why?
 - What are some of the rewards Christians try to use God to achieve? What is wrong with that?
 - Is there a place in your life in which you are using God as a means to achieve some other end?

Nov 5th: Lessons from the Rekabites

Jeremiah 35 introduces us to a family called the Rekabites. This was a Gentile family that wandered throughout Israel. Their ancestor, a man named Jehonadab had helped overthrow evil king Ahab. He had commanded his descendants, (possibly due to the family trade) to abstain from alcohol and to live nomadic lives never building homes or gardens. God instructs Jeremiah to invite them to a banquet at the temple and to tempt them with alcohol. They reject the wine.

- I. The Rekabites are commended by God:** Rejecting the wine would have been seen as a deep insult to their host. Yet God commends them, promising that even though Judah will face judgment, they will always have a family member serving God (35:19)
- **They exemplified faithful obedience:** One of the key reasons for this is that they were faithfully following the commands of their ancestor who gave them even more strict commands than God had given his people. They prove that normal everyday people are capable of obedience.
 - **They lived a distinct lifestyle apart from the crowd:** There is always a magnetic draw for people to follow the crowd. Yet this family held on to a lifestyle, one that abstained from alcohol and lived in tents, that were different than the rest of the culture. They proved that it could be done.
 - **Their obedient lifestyle was the result of deep respect:** This prompts the big question as to how they did this. In 35:15, God addresses the Jewish people and says that he has warned them, yet they have not “paid attention” or “listened” to God. Why? Because they really don’t respect him. The Rechabites had deep respect for their ancestor, so they honored him with their lifestyle. The Jewish people seemed to only honor God as long as it would result in God’s blessings on their lives.
 - **The Rekabites are an example to follow:** God holds them up as an example (35:13). We should seek to emulate a life that seeks to honor God in the same way that they honored their ancestor.
- II. Application: choose a life that properly honors God:** The church today has a habit of claiming to love God, yet living in a way that doesn’t take his teachings seriously. Often, God becomes a means to other things. If we pray, attend church, and do some good deeds, then God will respond by giving us what we want, whether it is comforts, money, or well behaved kids. Yet if God is a means to another end, then that end is the god of

our life. God wants us to respect and honor him because of who he is, not because of what he does for us. When we do that, it transforms our lives and enables us to be people who fully obey God.