

LIFE GROUP SERMON QUESTIONS

Welcome to Babylon

May 12 and 13 with Pastor Jeremy

What's The Big Idea:

The world has changed around us, and we need to understand it so that we can be equipped Biblically for how to handle it. The world we live in is now operated by the popular worldview in which there is no belief or appeal to God as the authority, but rather we look to human sources as authorities. We, as believers, must reject this definitively and continually. God is Transcendent, Holy, Other, and Creator... which means God is the authority over all of life; God is the giver of meaning and purpose.

Let's get started:

1. In honor of Mother's Day, answer this question: my mom made the best _____. (This doesn't just have to be food.)
2. Last week, Pastor Jeremy told a story about explorers who went on a grand adventure to find the Northwest Passage. Would you sign up for this kind of trip today? Why or why not?
3. What stood out to you most from this weekend's message? What challenged you?

Learn it:

1. During this series, we learned that when we move from an environment we understand to one we do not, the result is often fear. Scripture teaches us that in uncertain situations, we should rely on and trust in the Lord and not be afraid. Read through the following passages, and discuss with the group which one stands out to you the most and why.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Psalms 118:6

The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

Psalm 46:10

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Psalm 56: 3-4

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

Isaiah 26: 3-4

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.

2. Read through 2 Corinthians 10:1-5. Paul uses weapons and military terminology to describe the spiritual warfare in the world. For a believer, God must be the highest authority in our lives. He must be higher than our fear. He must be more important than our thoughts and our emotions. Even our thoughts must be submitted to Him. What does "take captive every thought and make it obey Christ" mean? How can one do this?

Live It:

1. The passages listed above show us that even the people writing the Bible needed to remind themselves that their vision was not always accurate, which led them to be afraid, discouraged, depressed, or anxious. Why do you think it is so difficult to see the world God's way at times?
2. This weekend, we learned that in today's culture, our feelings are becoming the dominating factor in making decisions, which can be very costly. What can you do to slow yourself down when you are tempted to act too quickly because of how you feel?

Give it:

1. Have you ever tried to tell someone the truth, even lovingly, and they found it offensive or seemed to take it personally? How can we, as Christians, “speak the truth in love” when people seem so easily offended by it?