

Session Two Homework

As we delve into letting go of our past, we're going to explore Jehovah's provision for us.

Sometimes the pain inflicted upon us by our families is minor; sometimes it's the stuff of soap operas or even true crime trauma. If we believe though, that Jesus is our Salvation, then his deliverance for us is full and complete, and his grace is sufficient to help us forgive and be healed from old, deep wounds.

Day One – What does Jesus offer us?

Throughout this study, we will look at the different names of God. This week, we will start with Jesus. The supreme compound name of Jehovah might be written Jehovah-Sus which simply means "I am thy salvation." The name "Jesus" is the Greek form of the Hebrew name "Jehoshua." The first letters of the name, "Je" are a contraction of "Jehovah" and are linked with a Hebrew name meaning "salvation". So the full name is really, "Jehovah is salvation."

1. Read Matthew 1:20-21. What was the significance of the name Jesus?

2. When you think about your relationship with Jesus, do you think of...
 - Eternal salvation – an event-driven relationship based on your acceptance of him
 - A personal relationship – a daily walk of growing intimacy
 - A little of both

3. Read John 10:10. What does Jesus come to bring and in what quantity and quality?

4. Read Romans 8:31-39. From this passage, describe salvation in terms of what Jesus offers us *today*.

5. How might this relate to dealing with the pain in our past?

6. Challenge yourself today to think of Jesus as salvation – not just salvation from *our* sins, but from the sins committed *against* us as well. Is that not his promise of an abundant life?

Today's prayer:

Jesus, thank you that you are my salvation, not just for eternity, but for my days past, present and future. Be near my heart today. I give you the old wounds from my past and ask you to cover them with your saving grace.

Day Two - How does Jesus relate to us?

1. Read Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23. By what other name do we know Jesus?

Immanuel literally means “the with us God.” It says, in a sense, that “he pitched his tent among us.” To the Hebrews, who spent many years wandering around hauling tents from one place to another, this statement would be significant. It’s like us saying Jesus is moving into our subdivision....

2. If Jesus is *God with us*, how might this change how we view the pain from our past?

3. Read Romans 8:28-29. Who alone draws on the canvas of our lives?

4. If in all things our *God-with-us* works for our good, how can this change how we view a potentially troubled past?

5. Can you begin to look at difficult situations from your youth, and remember that God was there? Again, trusting and understanding do not always go hand in hand.

6. Is there a particularly painful event you would like to give to Jesus, your salvation, right now?

Today’s prayer: God I thank you that you are my salvation. Thank you that you sent Jesus to pitch his tent among us, and even among the difficult seasons of my life. Help me to see your plan and your purpose even in my pain, and to trust that in all things you will work for my good.

Day Three – What kind of life does Jesus offer us?

1. Read Ephesians 1:18-21. What does this tell you about your calling?
2. What are characteristics of that calling?
3. About your authority?
4. Look again at verse 19. When do we obtain this great power that comes only from Jesus?

The word *believe* in the Greek does not refer to an event. The word is a present, active participle. It essentially says, “....His incomparably great power for us who are continually believing.”

5. Read over verses 19 and 20 one more time. How powerful is the power that believers receive through faith?
6. What aspects of your life would you handle differently if you truly relied on the “incomparable power” that comes from Christ?
7. How might this change how you relate to your family?

Day Four – Working the plan. Not just any plan – *the* plan.

1. Read Philippians 1:6, then the first part of Psalm 138:8. What does this tell you about God's designs for your life?

2. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. There's that "salvation-from-Jesus-alone" concept again! What else are we reminded of in this verse?

3. From verse 10, what do we learn about how and why we were created?

Workmanship in the Greek refers to *artwork!* You may not always *feel* like a piece of God's fine art, but you are!

4. Consider the last phrase in that verse, "created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

5. Where must we be abiding in order to do those good works?

6. Read Psalm 139:15, 16 again. There is a plan. How will you partner with God to enjoy it playing out during your life on earth?

Today's prayer:

God, I thank you that I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I may not understand all the circumstances of my life. I need to confess my disappointments regarding my family. But I will trust you and rely on your power to grant forgiveness and walk in a salvation that changes my life daily, not just for eternity.