

Session Nine Homework

Day One

1. Read Exodus 17:8-15
2. How were the Israelites able to win the battle against the Amalekites?
3. What do you think the Israelite army thought when in the midst of their war they looked up and saw Moses holding up the staff of God?
4. What name did Moses give to this place?
5. The Hebrew name for God in this verse is Jehovah-Nissi or Yahwehnissi. In ancient times, a banner was used to “rally the troops” and remind them of who they were fighting for. How does the picture of God as our banner encourage you when you think of shifting control of the big trials in your life?
6. Read Song of Solomon 6:4. This is another word picture of the Lord and his “banner”. How does this image of God speak to your heart?

Today's prayer:

Lord, thank you that you are my banner. The one who goes before me when I face battles in my life. Help me to remember that your banner over me is love and I can lean into that love instead of taking control when things get rough.

Day Two

1. Read Job 11:7-20. Job's trials and tribulations are infamous. At this point he has lost everything. What key point does his friend make in Job 11:7

2. What are some of the promises for trusting God in verses 13-19?

3. Pastor Tim Hawks, in the twelfth message of the Acts sermon series said, "God is in control of the outcome, so we must trust Him with the process." Have you ever experienced this tension?

4. Read Job 38. The whole chapter. How do these word pictures of God make you feel when you consider trusting him with the sometimes difficult "processes" of life?

Today's prayer:

God, you are in control. I confess I do not understand you and your ways. Help me to trust you with the process of life, even when it is hard. Help me continue to shift control to you, even in the most difficult of my circumstances.

Day Three

1. Read Psalm 18. Look at verse 4-5. Can you think of a time when you felt like “cords of death” were reaching for you?

2. Read verse 6. What does King David do after God delivers him from his enemy Saul?

3. Read verses 14-17. Who does the rescuing? What keeps you from believing God is really big enough to rescue you?

4. Read the last part of verse 18 and all of 19. What emotion does God feel toward you?

5. Why does he rescue us?

Today's prayer

God you are our warrior. Your banner goes before us in victory. Help me to realize you are there to fight those big battles for me. Help me feel your delight even when times are hard and I do not understand your ways.

Day Four

1. Forgiveness is a critical part of dealing with difficulty in life. What did Jesus teach us to pray in Luke 11:1-4?

2. Read Mark 11:25. What is the imperative to forgive based on this verse?

3. If you've experienced a significant trial or trauma, have you forgiven the perpetrator? If not, what must happen in your heart in order for you to do this?

4. Read Luke 17:1-5. How many times are we told to forgive? What did the disciples ask for the moment they heard this command of Jesus? What does this tell us about how easy it is to forgive?!

Today's prayer

Father, forgive me when I refuse to forgive. Give me wisdom to see the unforgiveness that is harbored in my heart. Help me to experience your grace in such a way that I can pass it on to others. Help me to forgive even when I do not want to.

Day Five

Let's close this week by looking at a woman in difficult circumstances – yet a woman who shifted control to the Lord.

1. Read Luke 1:5-7. What do we know about Elizabeth's husband?
2. What do we know about Elizabeth's own lineage? (verse 5)
3. How does this story describe the character of this couple?
4. What great disappointment had Elizabeth experienced?
5. She was a daughter of a priest, married to a priest, devout and faithful but experienced great sorrow. What does her example teach us about trusting even when we are not in control? Even when life is disappointing?

Today's prayer

God thank you for Elizabeth's faithfulness, even in her pain. She walked with you and was known for her relationship with you, regardless of her circumstances. Give me an "Elizabeth heart" Lord - one that will trust you with even the most heartbreaking experiences of my life. Let me be known for my walk with you, even when my path is difficult.