

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

FIGHT CLUB PT 3 - PLEA FOR THOSE WHO REJECT GOD

Scripture: Exodus 32:11-14, 30-34

Pastor Miles McPherson – 20 Sept 2015

Pastor Miles continued with the Fight Club series by showing the examples of Moses pleading for the Israelites as they wandered in the desert. Despite seeing all the miracles of God, they quickly turned to idols to worship instead of God. Through intercessory prayer, Moses pleaded with God to save them from being destroyed. It can be so easy for us to criticize the Israelites for their stubbornness, but when we really look at our own lives, are we so different? We may not share the same struggles with others, but we all have struggles. Having a heart of empathy and understanding for others leads us from a heart of criticism to compassion. It is in this place where we pray and plead for those who reject God.

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus said: "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"
Matthew 5:44

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. In Exodus, each time the people complained, Moses prayed for them. When we encounter people who complain or are otherwise difficult or irritating to us, what is our typical first reaction? What usually results when we respond with that initial reaction?

Read Ephesians 4:29 What would it be like if we followed this verse CONSISTENTLY and FAITHFULLY?

2. Pastor Miles opened the message with a story about visiting a juvenile detention facility where one of the young prisoners directed a barrage of hateful words toward pastor Miles. Rather than letting the foul words win, Pastor Miles reached out with love and eventually the young man got saved. What person comes to mind when we are asked who has shown hate toward us? How did we respond? Are you equipped today to respond with even more love today?



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Put yourself in the place of someone who has rejected God. Was there ever a time when you were either mad, upset or rejected God? What caused a change in your mind or heart?
2. A frequent complaint against Christians today is that we/they are considered "haters". What kind of behaviors, words and/or actions contributes to that label?
What can we do to reverse that accusation or label?
3. In Exodus 32, when the people grew impatient waiting for Moses to return from the mountaintop, they built an idol - a golden calf to worship. While that seems astonishing to many of us, Pastor Miles talked about us looking for security in false gods of today - money, being well-known, status, having certain possessions, type of job, lifestyle, type of where we live, how we live etc. Reflect for a few moments on all the things that are cherished. Which one would be the most difficult to suddenly do without?

For these questions, suggest breaking into groups of 2 or 3.

Once formed into the smaller groups, quietly and prayerfully meditate for a few moments on someone in your life that you believe has rejected God. Let the Spirit speak to you about this person.

4. Why do you believe they have rejected God?
5. What false god(s) do you believe that person worships?
6. What are the concerns or struggles about praying for this individual?
7. How can the group pray for you to overcome any concerns or struggles?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Pray for that person you know who seems to have rejected God the most. If it seems difficult, think of the miracle and testimony of God's love and power it would show to others. Let that fuel your prayer!



TAKE IT HOME!

Prayer Guide

I am going to pray for _____.

I affirm that I am _____.

I reject the lie that I am _____.

I will not let go or stop praying until you _____.

