

Sermon Questions

****12.16.07****

Date: 12-09-07

Speaker: James Allison

Series: Advent Conspiracy

Title: Promise

Scripture: Genesis 11

****** These questions are designed as a starting place for your facilitation. We encourage you to look through the sample questions and modify them to your specific group. These questions are not meant to be a comprehensive list but rather a grid to help you start thinking through the talk and how you think your group may have responded towards it. These questions will work better if you have taken notes of specific quotes, ideas and questions from what was said.******

What do you think?

- Re-read through the following passages James preached through.
 - Genesis 11:27- 12:4
 - Galatians 3:8
 - Genesis 15:1-6
 - Romans 4:19
 - Matthew 1:1
- What stands out to you from this scripture and or from what James said in his sermon? How so?
- James talked about how God starts with promises, not with rules and he simply asks us to trust him, to trust his promises. As a group, everyone grab a piece of paper and pen and each of you, make an “X Y” graph. The vertical line will be “Belief,” and the horizontal line will be “Life.” From childhood to current day, chart how you perceive your belief that God will keep his promises.
- Now, as a group, talk about your graphs and why you charted it the way you did.

What are you feeling?

- Abraham gets frustrated because God hasn't delivered any of those promises, even after 25 years! When was a time in your life when you were most frustrated with feeling like God doesn't care or he isn't taking care of you the way you want?
- God took Abraham outside to count the stars and remind him of His greatness. Have you had those moments? What were they like? How long did that refreshing last for?
- James spoke about how God simply wants us to believe him, as Paul wrote in Philippians, not to be anxious about anything... and that belief will be credited to us as Righteousness. The reality however for most of us is that we credit ourselves righteous by the things we do; go to church, be in a life group, serve, get on board with what it is God is doing in our community.... When your life is all said and done, and you sit before the thrown, will God look at you and say, “Wow, he/she did so many things for me, they went to church, they got involved with what I was doing, they served, they were busy for me...” or will He say, “Wow, he/she believed my promises and with his/her whole life they trusted me in spite of their difficulties?”

What will you do?

- Belief may seem like a difficult thing to “get better at.” Tangibly, what things do you think would help you grow in this area?
- How could this group continue to encourage each other in this area of belief?