

OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

dpc growth group studies

DUBBO
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Study 1: **GOD'S PLAN**

FOR STARTERS...

1. What words spring to your mind when you hear the word "sin"?

READ GENESIS 3:1-13

2. The sin of Adam and Eve was to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. What different attitudes to God and his word did they have that resulted in their sin?
3. How do we see these attitudes in our world today?

THINK-PAIR-PRAY *(split up into 2s or 3s, answer the question, then pray together before returning the main group)*

4. How do you see these attitudes rear their ugly heads in your own life?

BACK TOGETHER IN THE MAIN GROUP...

Sin has infected and affected every person on the planet. The ramifications are awful and endless. But God's plan is to overcome sin and restore us to himself.

READ GALATIANS 5:16-18 AND/OR ROMANS 7:21-25

5. What hope has God given us?

6. How does God's grace in Christ make you feel about:
 - a) your sin?

 - b) your God?

 - c) your new life in Christ?

4. What helps you to stop trying to take God's throne and instead to live by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16) and walk in his ways?

Study 2: **GOD'S PROMISE**

FOR STARTERS...

1. Share a story of when you needed someone to help you with something you couldn't handle on your own.

SKIM OVER GENESIS 4-11

2. In what ways has sin spread since Adam and Eve's sin in the garden of Eden?

READ GENESIS 12:1-7 AND GENESIS 15:1-6

3. How do these promises reflect a return to the good creation of Genesis 1-2?
4. How many times does God say "*I will...*" in Genesis 12:1-7? What is this teaching us about God and people and sin?

THINK-PAIR-SHARE (split up into 2s or 3s, answer the question, then share what you came up with the rest of the group)

5. The New Testament uses the promises of God to Abram to help us understand God's grace in establishing a people to be his own. Look up the following verses and see what they say about God's promises to Abram helping us to appreciate how God relates to us in Christ.

Romans 4:9-12, 18-25

Galatians 3:6-9

6. Even when it was hard and felt almost impossible, Abraham trusted in God, being persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.
 - a) When have you found it hard to trust in God and his promises?
 - b) What helps you to continue to trust in God to keep his word?

Study 3: **GOD'S PLAN IN THE EXODUS**

FOR STARTERS...

1. Share a story about you or someone you know being rescued.

SKIM OVER EXODUS 1-14

2. Write down the major events of these chapters.

READ EXODUS 19:1-8

3. *Why* did God carry Israel on eagle's wings? (you're looking for a few things!)
What do each of these things mean?
4. What relied on Israel being obedient to God? What didn't rely on Israel being obedient to God?

For Israel to be God's treasured possession, his kingdom of priests and his holy nation, they needed to be obedient (verses 5-6). Sadly (and predictably) they failed.

READ 1 PETER 2:4-10

5. How have we been made into a royal priesthood and a holy nation? How is this different to what God did for Israel?
6. How does this make you feel?
7. What kind of person does this truth make you want to be?
8. What's one or 2 ways you can live this out?

Study 4: **GOD'S PLAN IN ISRAEL**

FOR STARTERS...

1. What helps you to appreciate / value Jesus?

After God rescued Israel from Egypt, he brought them into the land of Canaan, the land he promised their father Abraham. However Israel was persistently disobedient towards God. So God kept judging them to steer them back to himself, using foreign nations to oppress them. It was an endless cycle of disobedience and oppression and then God rescuing them, but Israel falling again into disobedience.

Eventually God gave them kings who were meant to lead the people towards God. The greatest of these kings was King David. We're picking things up at a time when God makes some massive promises to David.

READ 2 SAMUEL 7:1-17

2. What good things did God promise to David?

After David, his son Solomon became King in Israel. He was the one who built the temple for the LORD, as God promised (1 Kings 6). In 1 Kings 8 Solomon dedicates the temple.

READ 1 KINGS 8:22-61

3. What good things came to Israel (and foreigners!) through the temple?

All these good things God gave to Israel... his presence, his forgiveness, his rule, rest from their enemies... all these things were preparing us for what God would do for his people through Christ Jesus.

THINK-PAIR-SHARE

4. In what ways does what God has done for us in Jesus dwarf what he did for Israel through David and Solomon?

- God's presence
- God's forgiveness
- God's rule
- rest from our enemies

5. How does this help you to appreciate / value Jesus?

Study 5: **GOD'S PLAN IN THE EXILE**

FOR STARTERS...

1. For most little kids, why is being sent to their room such a 'terrible' discipline?

After God kept his promises to Israel and David, the people of Israel remained rebellious in their sin. Eventually their sins reached their limit and God not only sent foreign nations to defeat them, but to remove them altogether from the promised land in exile.

The book of Lamentations was written in the aftermath of Judah and Jerusalem being destroyed by the Babylonians as they took Judah into exile. God's wrath against his people was terrifying and devastating.

GOING INTO EXILE

READ LAMENTATIONS 1

2. How does this chapter make you feel?

GOD'S PROMISES THEIR RETURN

READ EZEKIEL 36:16-28

3. What does God promise he will do for Israel after their time in exile?

God keeps his word. God brings Israel back into the land to be his people once again. You can read about the resettlement of the land in Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, and Malachi.

THE RETURN INTO THE PROMISED LAND

READ NEHEMIAH 13:15-18, 23-27

4. Nehemiah was one of the instrumental people in Israel in getting them back into the land and returning to living with God as their God. How were things going with the Israelites by the end of Nehemiah's life?

Life back in the promised land completely failed to live up to the hype of what the prophets predicted. Israel remained an insignificant nation at the mercy of the Persians, then the Greeks and finally to Rome. Jerusalem and the temple were nothing compared to their former glory before the exile. The people persisted in their rebellious ways.

THINK-PAIR-SHARE

READ LUKE 2:25-32

5. From these verses, it's not until the coming of Jesus that God fulfilled his promises. In what ways do you think Jesus makes God's promises come true?
 - i. A new people with new hearts?
 - ii. God's rule being established?
 - iii. God's people enjoying the blessings of God?
 - iv. The promised land?
6. What comfort do we have in being the people who have come after the arrival of the Christ?

