

Life Groups Discussion Questions

January 10, 2010 Sermon
Series: The Amazing Race
Week 2: History Books

Introduction

Try giving your group a "quiz" on the Law and History sections. Try not to make them feel too insecure, etc.!

1. How many sections is the O.T. divided into? (four)
2. What are they? (Law, History, Poetry/Wisdom, Prophets)
3. How many books (and which ones) are in the Law section? (5; Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)
4. How many books (and which ones) are in the History section? (12; Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther).
5. Match the following people or events to either a section (Law or History) or a book.
 - a. Samson (a judge; history section; judges)
 - b. Joseph (son of Jacob; law section; Genesis)
 - c. Civil War (history section; 1 Kings)
 - d. Moses (law section; Genesis)
 - e. Samuel (history section; 1 and 2 Samuel)
 - f. Conquering the Promised Land (History section; Joshua)
 - g. Isaac (Law; Genesis)
 - h. Bathsheba (History; 2 Samuel)
6. What did Ezra and Nehemiah do? (they led about 50,000 Jews back to Jerusalem after the 70 years of exile and helped them rebuild the city walls, the Temple, and re-establish worship.

Bible Study

Sunday's sermon focused on the History section of the Old Testament. The major theme of these books is summarized in the book of Judges by the "Cycle of the Judges."

Ask your group: Can anyone describe this "Cycle of the Judges?"

Answer: 1) period of obedience; 2) slide into disobedience; 3) consequences: God sends a foreign army to occupy Israel; 4) Israel is ruled by that foreign army (they become slaves or servants); 5) Israel comes to their senses, cries out to God, repents; 6) God forgives and sends a judge to deliver them....And then the cycle repeats itself all over again.

Question:

How often have you moved through this cycle? (Some may answer: daily! Others may think of a few seasons in their lives where they have wandered from God and spent time away from Him.)

Leaders: depending on the "trust level" of your group, see if folks are willing to share examples from their lives of moving through this cycle. Of course, it would be great if you shared your testimony that might relate to this cycle.

Brent led us through the story of Othniel and Ehud, 2 of the 12 judges of Israel (Judges 3:7-30). Feel free to review that story with them and then focus on the 3 applications:

- 1) Don't rebel against the One (God) who has saved your soul from hell.
 - a. Why do we so easily turn away from God?
 - b. What helps keep us in obedience to Him?
- 2) If we rebel, there will be consequences
 - a. God brought a foreign army to conquer Israel; what are consequences for us?
- 3) When we repent, God always welcomes us back home.

As you bring your Bible study to an end....

- 1) Spend some time in reflection on this cycle. Perhaps your group is open to 3 or 4 minutes of silence as they think through this cycle, where they might be at in this cycle, etc.
- 2) Encourage folks to confess their sins. Get clean!
- 3) Be sure to remind them of God's grace! Turn to 1 John 1:9 (a verse written to Christians) and spend a bit of time reading and discussing that verse.

Prayer Time:

I (Brent) have found it helpful to split up the men and women to pray; often times, this increases sharing...and prayer.

Thanks for being a Life Group Leader!