

Group Discussion Guide for Week of 7/12/2020

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text from Sunday Sermon; *Hebrews 11:24-28 (NIV)*

²³ By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

Note: the O.T. Passages referenced here include Exodus 2:1-15; 3:1-4:23; 12:1-36.

The book of Acts (7:20-36) contains a very full yet concise summary that would be good to look at for context/back story.

General Question Bank

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)
Know (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)
Together (What is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?)

v.23-28

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

****Another way to ask: "Choose one verse or phrase from the passage that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further." Now share it with the group*

O: This passage describes a lot about what Moses did... reading between the lines (as well as remembering back to Exodus chapters 2&3 and Acts ch.7), what did GOD do in these detailed situations?

O: Why did Moses make the choice to reject his standing in the Egyptian royal family (v.24)? **Be**

Another way to ask this question: What was Moses thinking about when he made his choices?

Note: focus on verse 26b & 27b

Potential follow-up: Realistically, describe what Moses was choosing to give up. What was he receiving in its place (think both good as well as tough stuff)?

Potential follow-up: Compare the alternatives that Moses had when he made this choice (see Acts 7:22).

I: According to v.25 Moses chose sharing with his people's suffering over the "fleeting pleasures of sin." **Together**
What reasons led Moses to make that choice?

What issues in your life force you to choose between obeying God and enjoying some fleeting pleasures of sin?
What resources could help you choose to follow and obey God instead?

I: Describe the tension in v.27b (keeping our eyes on an invisible God). How did Moses do this? How can we do this? **Know**

I: Why did it take faith to keep the Passover (v.28)?

Potential follow-up/focus: Read Ex. 12:1-13 and write down briefly what they had to do.

What would have happened if they had done everything except apply the blood to the doorposts?

In what way is the Passover lamb a picture of Jesus Christ? (1 Cor. 5:7)

A: How could Moses' life encourage you to persevere through difficult times? Be specific. **Do**

Another way to ask this question: What has God asked/required of you? Are you being faithful? What can you learn/apply from Moses' calling/choices/courage/& encouragement

A: How have you adopted the world's value system (See 1 John 2:15-17)? **Be**

How does your life and values and choices compare with Moses'?

Are there any choices (big or small) that you need to make in response to this passage/God's direction?

Recommended Follow-up:

- **Pray: There are so many topics that the group could pray about in response to this passage:**
Bold God Choices (v.24), personal sacrifice (v.25a), purity (v.25b), That we would choose Jesus over the pleasures of the world (v. 26a), eternal perspective (v.26b), Action (v.27a), fearless faith (v.27b), devotional lives/eyes on Jesus (v.27c), faith in the cross/gospel (v.28).
- **Respond:** Spend this week responding to God's word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week's companion devotional guide.
- **Read:** Next week's sermon (7/19/20) will focus on Hebrews 11:29-30 (Joshua 5:13-6:27). Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, as well as journey through this week's companion devotional guide.

An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides*:

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a **“Know, Be, Do”** person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on Colossians 1:9-10, see below)

Know – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

Be – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

Do – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *“⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)* To aid in this process Riverside also has a **daily devotional guide available each week**.

Colossians 1:9-10, NIV

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...

* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guide relies heavily upon the following resources: Thomas, Mack. *The Complete Bible Discussion Guide: Old Testament and New Testament*, Serendipity Bible for Personal and Small Group Study, Zondervan, along with the following group studies specific to Hebrews: Tom Wright (978-0-281-06379-6), Kay Arthur (978-0-7369-2306-4), Wiersbe (978-0781445665), MacArthur (978-0-7180-3515-0).