

## Message Discussion Guide

### Chapter 9: LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

*The Church at Brook Hills,*

*Ben DeLoach*

*March 14, 2010*

*Deuteronomy 6*

---

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

### **Connect . . .**

*Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.*

#### **Option 1**

Invite willing learners to share about a time when they were obedient to God, and their obedience put them in a place of struggle, discomfort, or great challenge. Encourage them to discuss how they view that time of calling today. Explain that today we will discuss how following God's commands can often lead us to places that are not always comfortable, yet are necessary for our sanctification and for others salvation.

#### **Option 2**

Ask learners if they have ever heard anyone say, "God just wants me to be happy." Encourage them to answer the following questions:

- How can this statement be misleading?
- Is our personal happiness God's chief goal for our lives?
- How does this statement place man at the center of God's purpose?

Explain that today we will discuss how God is more concerned with His glory and our holiness than our temporary happiness.

### **Review the Message . . .**

#### **God's Word on their hearts would lead them to His promise**

- When God is known by His people...
  - God's people should know Him as their God
  - God's people should know Him as the only God
- ...He will be loved and obeyed by His people.

#### **Discussion**

- Enlist a learner to read Deuteronomy 6:4-6, 12, 18.
- Explain that Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is part of the *Shema*, a central prayer in the Jewish faith. Note that the word translated as LORD is the covenant name for God, Yahweh. What is the significance of calling God by His covenant name in this passage?
- How did the use of Yahweh set Him apart from the other 'gods' of the surrounding nations?

## Message Discussion Guide

### Chapter 9: LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

The Church at Brook Hills,

Ben DeLoach

March 14, 2010

Deuteronomy 6

---

- How did Israel describe Yahweh in verse 4?
- Looking specifically at verses 5 and 18, how did Israel's knowledge of God prompt them to respond to Him?
- What was the relationship between Israel's obedience to God and His promises to them?

#### Application . . .

- How do we today know God's Words and put His Word in our hearts? How do we know Him?
- How can we portray our God as 'the one true God' to those around us?
- How can we keep our knowledge of God and our love for God at the forefront of our minds?
- What should our response be to God in light of our knowledge of and faith in Him?
- How does God's work in our lives in the past serve as reminders of our responsibility to Him?
- What should be our motivation to obey God daily? Is it mainly to receive His promises or is it to serve 'the one true God'? What is the difference?

#### **God's Word on our hearts has led us to His plan**

- God's blessings are for His purpose in our world (Psalm 67:1-2; Isaiah 49:6)
  - We have received God's blessing with arrogance
  - We have neglected the giving of blessing to others

With our blessings from God we will share the Word

- God's commands often conflict with our comforts (Jonah 4)
  - We have desired gain from God more than the glory of God
  - We have embraced comforts at the expense of compassion

With our compassion for people we will show and teach the Word.

- God's Word should be multiplied through every part of our lives (Deut. 6:7-8; Matt. 28:19-20)
  - We have built a kingdom of isolation
  - We have separated our lives from service

With our surrender to Christ we will serve the world

#### Discussion

- Enlist two learners to read Psalm 67:1-2 and Isaiah 49:6.
- What is the purpose of God's blessings in the lives of His followers?
- How are His blessings connected with personal responsibility?

## Message Discussion Guide

### Chapter 9: LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

*The Church at Brook Hills,*

*Ben DeLoach*

*March 14, 2010*

*Deuteronomy 6*

---

- Read Jonah 3:10-4:3. Why was Jonah uncomfortable with God's command? How does his discomfort reflect sin in his life?
- What was God more concerned with than Jonah's comfort? Why?
- What did Jonah's lack of compassion for the people of Nineveh indicate about the way he viewed his role in God's mission?
- Enlist two learners to read Deuteronomy 6:7-8 and Matthew 28:19-20.
- What do these passages say about the way that discipleship was to be done? How was it to be incorporated into their lives?

#### **Application . . .**

- What is our typical North American attitude toward the blessings that we receive?
- Why do we often feel a sense of entitlement or a right to have certain things in this world?
- How do our actions sometimes reflect a view that God owes us whatever we ask for? How does this attitude contradict God's purpose?
- How can the hoarding of blessings cause us to deteriorate spiritually? How does sharing God's blessings help us in our sanctification?
- Why do we struggle with the fact that following God can cost us something?
- Why do we often think that God's calling in our lives is supposed to lead us to more comfort or luxuries?
- How can we sometimes use comfort as a measuring stick to determine God's direction for our lives?
- Should we ever consider our comfort when we are seeking direction from God? Why or why not?
- How do we often compartmentalize disciple-making within the rest of our lives?
- How does fulfilling Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8 demand some intentional sacrifice in our lives?
- How can we consider each aspect of our lives an opportunity to be involved in God's mission of making disciples of all nations?

If we love God with all that we are...If we call Christ Lord...If we believe the Word is true...

What good reasons are there for not planting our lives among the lost and the poor?

#### **Application . . .**

- Consider the above question this week as we seek God's specific direction in regards to how we are to be involved in His mission in Birmingham.