

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Egypt

Week 5: Spiritual Hypocrisy
Jeremiah 42-43

Week of November 20, 2022
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

What does it look like to obey God? Do we only obey him when it suits our interests? Is it possible to have our interests be the same as God's interests? Let's discuss it all today!

Kicking It Off:

This week is Thanksgiving in America. What's your favorite side dish at holiday meals? Plus, what are you most excited about in this holiday season?

Discussion:

1. Which family member tends to have the TV remote control the most in your house? On a scale of 1 (hardly at all) to 10 (wanting full control), how much do you consider yourself a control freak?
2. Setting the scene: What did we learn about the faithful remnant in the southern kingdom of Judah? Why do you think the people wanted Jeremiah to pray for them? Verses 42:2b-3 might offer insights...

"Please hear our petition and pray to the LORD your God for this entire remnant. For as you now see, though we were once many, now only a few are left. Pray that the LORD your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do." (NIV)

3. What are some of the reasons why people might seek God's approval for their desires, rather than searching for His guidance for their plans? What might go wrong when we pray hypocritical prayers, where we never intend to follow God's direction?
4. Think of a recent time when you felt God's guidance in your life. Which did God use the most ... His Word, His people, or a nudge of the Holy Spirit? If you're comfortable share with the group what happened.
5. In Jeremiah 43:3-4, the people accuse Jeremiah of lying to them. In what ways do many people tend to rationalize and convince themselves that God hasn't really provided a certain direction in life? What are some dangers in ignoring God's guidance?

Azariah son of Hoshaiiah and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, "You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, 'You must not go to Egypt to settle there.'" (NIV)

6. Read Romans 12:2. How do our thoughts play a role when we try to understand God's will for our lives? What might your life look like if you were consistently walking in "Enthusiastic Obedience" about following God, no matter what He commands you to do?

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (NIV)

Wrapping Up:

Share a "big prayer" with your group that's on your heart to have God help lead you in your life.