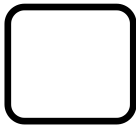


GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

1. Begin your time together sharing highs and lows from the past week.
2. Our current series - Unexpected - has us talking about surprising twists and turns in Jesus' lessons. What parable(s) or other biblical accounts do you remember feeling surprised by when you first heard about it/them?
3. This week's specific focus is on the surprising amount of patience God has for us. Share a time when God used an extremely generous amount of patience on you and your circumstances.
4. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-5.
 - What do you notice about David's reaction to the parable?
 - Now read the sermon text (Matthew 21:33-46). What kinds of differences do you observe between God's reaction and David's reaction?
5. How/when do you currently make time to meditate on your sins, confess them to God, and thank him for his generous patience and love?
6. Read Psalm 32. Which verses in this psalm can you identify with the most?
7. Close your time together in prayer, thanking God for the different ways he has showered his generous patience on you in the past week.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points.

Unexpected: Permissive!?!

The Absolute Absurdity of God's Patience

Matthew 21:33-46

Introduction: Jesus' parable is a powerful call to repentance.

- God is the o_____ of everything we possess (Psalm 24:1).
- Can you identify with the tenants in the vineyard?
- The farmers were acting s_____, claiming everything as their own.
- Note the landowner's response. He keeps trying to win them back.
- "Last of all, he sent his son to them" (v. 37). Absurd!
- What father would send his son to such hateful and cruel tenants?
- The absurdity is i_____, for it is a picture of God's grace, mercy, and love (Romans 5:8).
- This parable is the most strongly worded w_____ Jesus can issue.
- We cannot pull the w_____ over God's eyes (Galatians 6:7).
- Confessing our sins before God, he invites us to find r_____ in Jesus (1 John 1:7).
- Jesus is the c_____ of God's Church, and he provides purpose and direction in our lives.
- Jesus is the One by whom all people with either s_____ or f_____ on the Day of Judgment (Luke 2:34, 35).
- We shake our heads in amazement at the p_____ love of our heavenly Father.

Conclusion: God permissive? No. God patient, persistent, persevering? Yes.

My Next Steps

Memorize Galatians 6:7: "Do not be deceived; God cannot be mocked."

Read Matthew 22:1-14 to prepare for next week's message on *Unexpected: Biased!?!*

Rejoice that God was willing to throw his own Son out of the vineyard to save such wretched sinners like you and me.