

SERMON: Friendship with God
SERIES: Genesis: A Journey of Faith
SPEAKER: Pastor Mark

March 31, 2019

THE GOAL: The primary goal of a small group at Grace is to develop a Christian community where Jesus is experienced through the gospel.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS: Use these questions to explore how God is at work in our families, communities, workplaces, and church.

1. Where have you seen God at work in your life this week?
2. What temptations have you been facing this week? How is God delivering you?
3. How have you experienced God's grace this week?
4. In what ways are you growing in your love for God?
5. In what ways are you growing in your love for others?
6. Have you started or stopped something this week just because you love Jesus?

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 18:1-33

SERMON OUTLINE:

I. A friendly meal II. A friendly conversation III. A friendly appeal

REVIEW: Use these questions to better understand and apply the passage/sermon.

Observation: as a group talk through and summarize the passage. Think through Who, What, Where, When, How, Why questions together.

Interpretation: answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?
3. What does this passage teach us about salvation/grace?
4. How does this passage point to Christ?

Application: answer these questions together:

1. How does this passage convict you?
2. How does this passage encourage or inspire you?
3. What specific truth do you see about God (his grace? love? holiness?) and how would your life be different if you really believed it?
4. By God's grace, what commitments do you need to make this week? Or, what do you need to start obeying/believing?

GO DEEPER: Use these questions to go deeper into the passage, minds, and hearts.

1. Do you think of your relationship with God as a friendship? What makes this difficult? Easy?
2. In what ways can you relate to Sarah's doubts in this story? How can God's grace keep you from doubting God?
3. God is our friend and yet God is a just punisher of sin. How does Christ reconcile these two conflicting thoughts? Think about how 1 Peter 3:18 connects to Abraham's appeal for justice.

Pray: Honor God as the omnipotent God with whom nothing is impossible. Confess doubts and fears that have crept in during your waiting on God. Thank God for his friendship with you through Christ. Pray for your enemies' salvation as Abraham did for Sodom.