

SERMON: The Pursuit of God
SERIES: Genesis: A Journey of Faith
SPEAKER: Pastor Brady

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 19:1-38

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. Your pursuit II. The pursuit of God

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. Think about Lot's pursuit of Sodom (see Gen. 13:10). How does what we pursue conform us? How was this true for Lot? For you? What are the applications of this for our sexuality?
2. Often when we start to conform to the world we become "counterfeit." Like Lot, we can look godly but fall short of true godliness in important ways. For example, sexual freedom, overworking, or over-parenting can become the counterfeit for love. Can you identify areas in your life where you are in danger of being "counterfeit?"
3. God pursued Lot because he remembered Abraham. How does this picture our salvation in Christ? Read Romans 3:23-26 together. How does Christ's sacrifice (propitiation) allow God to pursue us? Have you received God's gift of life in Christ?
4. Pastor Brady said that to pursue holiness we should not first pursue holiness but rather grace. Why is this so important? What happens when we pursue holiness without first receiving God's grace?