

SERMON: From Slavery to Freedom
SERIES: Genesis: A Journey of Faith
SPEAKER: Pastor Brady

April 14, 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 21:1-21; Galatians 4:21-5:1

SERMON OUTLINE: I. From slavery to freedom II. God's promise of freedom in Christ

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. In Genesis 21 Abraham had to release his son Ishmael in order to fully embrace his son Isaac as the heir to the blessing. According to Galatians 4 this is a picture of how we must release the "fleshly" things that we hold on to in order to fully embrace freedom in Christ (our own self-righteousness). Can you identify the "Ishmaels" in your life? What good thing might be replacing Christ in your heart?

2. How is Ishmael a picture of both us and Jesus in this story? How can the Ishmael story encourage you in your faith?

3. God promised Abraham and Sarah a son, and he fulfilled that promise. What has God promised to us? Read Romans 8:28-29. How is "being conformed to Christ" different than what the prosperity gospel says God promises us? How does God use both joy and sorrow to conform us to Christ? Read also Philippians 3:8-10.

Pray: Praise God for his promise and his ongoing work of conforming you to Christ. Confess any "Ishmaels" that you need to release in order embrace "Isaac" (Jesus). Ask God to bring obedience from freedom not from slavery to the law.