



WEEK 5 DISCUSSION GUIDE

MESSAGE NOTES:

1. Describe a time when you did something difficult (means) in order to achieve something good (end)?
2. How does it make you feel to think that God worked with Israel (means) to prepare the world for a savior, the messiah, Jesus (end)? Does that make Israel more or less important in your eyes?
3. Share any SOAP Journal entries you have from Isaiah 53.
4. Andy suggested that prophets sometimes look beyond their current historical situations to describe what God would do to bless the entire world. Read Micah 5:1-5. Point out which verses or phrases refer to current or shortly in the future historical situations, and which refer to an impact that will affect the entire world.
5. How is reading the “Old Covenant” as an historical record of the Hebrew people different from reading it as a spiritual guidebook?
6. Read Hebrews 8:13, 10:1,9. What do these verses tell us about the place of the Old Covenant now that God has done something new in Jesus? How does this change your view of the Old Testament or the way you read it?
7. The early church struggled with how to view the Old Covenant as well. Read Acts 10:27-28, 34-35, 15:4-11, 19. How did the early church come to view the Old Covenant?
8. Read Galatians 4:4-5. How does it make you feel to know that God worked through thousands of years of history with you in mind?
9. Close your time together by thanking God for caring for you and every person in this world.

Bottom Line: God played by the rules of the kingdoms of this world in order to usher in a kingdom not of this world.

SOAP JOURNAL EXERCISE

Read: Hebrews 8

S - Scripture - Choose one verse from the scripture above and hand write it below.

O - Observation - Describe in your own words what you think the verse is saying. Explore words and phrases and try to put down what you “see” in this verse. You can even re-write the verse in your own words.

A - Application - Write down what you should do because of what this verse says. It may be something you need to keep doing, stop doing, or start new. Make it as detailed and specific as possible.

P - Prayer - Write a prayer thanking God for speaking to you, and ask him to help you focus on what he has said and what you should do.