

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Exodus 4:18-31

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- **Discuss the following quote.**
- *Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and ourselves. – John Calvin*
 - What do you think this quote means?
 - Do you agree or disagree?
- *What comes to our minds when we first think of God is the most important thing about us. – A. W. Tozer*
 - What do you think this quote means?
 - What comes to your mind when you first think about God?
 - What are the implications of seeing God as fatherly?

3 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **Yahweh is an Encouraging Father**
- **Yahweh is a Disciplining Father**
- **Yahweh is a Sovereign Father**

I. Yahweh is an Encouraging Father

- **Read Exodus 4:18-23**

- In verse 18, why do you think Moses talked to Jethro before he went to Egypt? What does this verse tell us about Moses and Jethro's relationship? What does this verse tell us about Moses?
- In what sense was the nation of Israel God's firstborn son? In what sense are Christians firstborn sons of God? In what sense is Jesus the first-born Son of God?
- In verse 20, why do you think Moses' staff is now called the staff of God?
- Compare verse 21 with the following verses.
 - Exodus 7:3
 - Exodus 7:13
 - Exodus 8:15
- What do these verses teach us about God's sovereignty and man's responsibility?
- How was verse 21 meant to be an encouragement to Moses? Read Proverbs 21:1 to help answer this question.
- What encouragements did God give to Moses as he stepped out in faith (4:18-31)? Which of these would have been encouraging to you and why?

II. Yahweh is a Disciplining Father

- **Read Exodus 4:24-26**
- What is confusing and/or interesting about this story?
- In the sermon on Sunday, Nathan said that "the 'what' of this story isn't as important as the 'why' of this story." What do you think he meant by that?
- Why was Moses' disobedience such a big deal? Read Genesis 17:9-14 to help answer this question.
- **Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-32.** What is surprising about this passage?
- What does this passage tell us about the importance of the Lord's supper?
- Do you think the church in America has a lack of reverence when it comes to our worship of God? Explain your answer.
- What does this passage tell us about the importance of taking the Lord's supper in a "worthy manner" instead of an "unworthy manner?"

- What do you think 1 Corinthians 11:31-32 means? How does God's discipline save us from being condemned along with the world?
- **Read and discuss** Hebrews 12:5-11.

III. Yahweh is a Sovereign Father

- **Read Exodus 4:27-31**
- Where do you see God's sovereignty in Chapter 4?
 - **Leaders Cheat:** Exodus 4:11 & Exodus 4:21
- Having Aaron along was an encouragement to Moses. Who is an encouragement to you as you serve the Lord? How can you be an encouragement to someone with whom you serve?

Closing Prayer

Give me grace to take your fatherly chastisement, with gentle spirit and a quiet heart. Give me that patience which is most needful in the time of suffering; and teach me, my God, to be still before you when it goes hard with me; not to receive my trial as a sign of your displeasure, nor to murmur against you in my heart, but to acknowledge that you do chastise the child you love for his good. For affliction works patience, patience experiences, experiences that hope which shall not be put to shame. Help me, then, O eternal and pitying God, help me to possess my soul in patience, to maintain unshaken hope in you, to keep that childlike trust which feels a Father's heart hidden beneath the cross; so shall I be strengthened with power according to your glorious might, in all patience and longsuffering; I shall be enabled to endure pain and temptation, and, in the very depth of my suffering, to praise you with a joyful heart, for if we suffer here with Christ, we shall also be with him in his glory. So be it with me, my God. – **Johann Habermann 1516-1590**