

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.

The Re-creation of the Garden – March 12, 2023

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- What have you learned over the last few weeks during the sermon series about the Tabernacle?
- What has surprised you the most?
- **Read Exodus 31:7-11.** What is the most meaningful symbolism to you personally, that is found in the Tabernacle and its furnishings?
- How has studying the Old Testament helped you in your Christian walk to understand the New Testament?
- Why do you think modern Christians struggle with the Old Testament?
- What are some practical things you can do to be a better student of the Old Testament?

3 Parts to the Sermon

- **Bezalel and Oholiab**
- **The Sign of The Covenant**
- **The Re-creation of the Garden**

I. Bezalel and Oholiab

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 31:1-6. Does it surprise you that God would fill men with the Holy Spirit to build the Tabernacle?

- Why was the building of the Tabernacle so important?
- Why do all the re-creations of the Tabernacle fail in comparison to the original? How are they helpful?
- What roles do beauty and art play in the life of a believer?

II. The Sign of The Covenant

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 31:12-13. How is the Sabbath connected to the Tabernacle?
- **Read and discuss** Exodus 20:8-11. Why do you think rest was so important to God?
- How was the Old Testament Sabbath different from our weekly worship service on the Lord's Day?
- Do you believe we are obligated to keep a Sabbath today? Explain your answer.
- Even if you don't believe that the Sabbath is required today, how is rest important in the life of a believer? What are some different ways we can find rest in our relationship with God?
- How did the Sabbath rest give a rhythm to the week? Why is this important, and what did it teach the Israelites?
- How did the 4th commandment show that Yahweh was a gracious ruler, unlike Pharaoh?
- How did the Sabbath rest point Israel forward to Christ?
- How did the Sabbath command teach Israel that they belonged to God?
- **Read and discuss** the following quote.
 - *The sabbath would be an institutional, public, and absolutely obvious indication of Israel's special status as Yahweh's people. He is a holy God who makes claims upon the totality of the life of His people – their calendar, their time, and their sabbath days. - Albert Mohler*
- **Read and discuss** Exodus 31:16-17. Have you ever thought of the Sabbath as primarily a sign of the Mosaic Covenant (the Old Covenant)? Why or why not?
- What is a sign of a covenant? Read the following verses to help answer this question.

- Genesis 9:13-17
- Genesis 17:9-11
- Exodus 31:16-17
- Why are these signs important?
- Why is the Sabbath an appropriate sign for the Mosaic Covenant?
- What are the signs of the New Covenant? How important are the New Covenant signs?

III. The Re-creation of The Garden

- According to Exodus 25:8, what is the purpose of the Tabernacle?
- **Read and discuss** Exodus 25:1. How does this verse point us back to creation (Genesis 1)?
- As a group, make a list of ways that the Tabernacle is like the Garden of Eden in Genesis 1 & 2. How are they different?

Final Prayer

- *Seeing then that you alone are the creator and maker of all things, and have prepared herbs, seeds, fruits, fish, and flesh to be meat for man; seeing also that without your blessing all these, your creatures prosper not, nor yet come unto a fortunate end, but grow out of kind, wither away, perish, die, and come to naught; we most humbly ask you to bless us and all the fruits of the earth, with all other your creatures which you have made for man's use and profit. -*
Thomas Becon

Prayer for the Nations Night

Friday, March 17 | 6:30pm | Donckels' Home

Join us at the Donckels' home (20614 Oak Pass Ave.) as we gather to pray for unreached people groups. Please contact Rachel W. at 661.805.4164 if you have any questions.

Love & Respect Biblical Marriage Class

Thursdays, starting March 23 | 6:30pm | Smith's Home

Sundays, starting April 2 | 8:50am | Room 201

Married or not, doing great or struggling, this class is for you! Come learn how to thrive in marriage based on God's instructions in Ephesians 5:33. Join us on Sunday morning, led by

John and Karen Johnson, or on Thursday night, led and hosted by Richard and Anna Smith at their home in Stallion Springs (no childcare for the Thursday night class). The class is only \$25 per couple and includes two workbooks. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up soon. Hope to see you there! Sign up at cobc.churchcenter.com/registrations.

Free Parent Workshop: Kindergarten Readiness

Friday, March 24 | 2pm | The Grove

If you have a child entering kindergarten this fall, HOS invites you to attend this free workshop to hear from a panel of local educators and learn how you can help your child successfully transition into the classroom setting and be ready for kindergarten! Attendees will receive a packet of information as well as a small gift bag. Free childcare for kids age 4-6 during the workshop. Call the school office at 661.823.0885 to RSVP (be sure to let us know if you need childcare - space is limited).