Week of November 21st

**Neighbourhood Groups Leader’s Guide**

LEADERSHOP **PLEASE ANNOUNCE – November is Baptism Month. Encourage people to let one of the pastors know if they want to be baptized**.We can baptize in December too if we need to!

ANNOUNCE ZOOM PRAYER MEETINGS EACH EVENING MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY at 8:45 pm.

MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

**DON’T JUMP RIGHT IN –** ask people how their week went? Inquire about whether they were able to participate in the Ten Days of Prayer and Fasting? How did it go for them?

**Questions for this Week**

Some questions are lumped together deliberately to help you keep the discussion going. **In those sections only ask one question at a time (or maybe two**) but save the rest to keep the discussion

**STARTING QUESTIONS**

This past weekend we had Water Baptisms in our services and Pastor John spoke out of Psalm 85. What stuck out to you? What did you learn? Was there something you didn’t understand?

Get your group to read the entire Psalm. Make sure the postscript is read to. Explain that this is part of the inspired scripture. Maybe go around the room and get people to read one verse at a time.

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

**THESE QUESTIONS ZERO IN ON HOW TO APPLY WHAT WAS TAUGHT TO OUR LIVES. ONE OF THE GOALS OF OUR GROUPS IS TO MOVE CHRISTIANS BEYOND BEING STUDENTS OF SCRIPTURE TO BEING DOERS OF THE WORD (DISCIPLES).**

1 – Read the postscript of this chapter and then ask: Who was Korah?

2 – What did Korah do? How did Moses respond to what he did? What was the result of what he did? Use these scriptures to help you with this part of the discussion if your group is having trouble recalling the story of Korah: Number 16:1-3, 4-7, 20-30.

3 – How do you think God looks on people who rebel against their spiritual leadership today? Should we be careful about not following our leaders? When shouldn’t we follow them? Get someone to read **Hebrews 13:17.** How well do you think the 21st Century church practices this? What should we do if we hear somebody in our church murmuring against our pastors and spiritual leaders?

4 – How many years after Numbers 16 was Psalm 85 written? ANSWER – about 900. So these were great, great, great, great grandsons. In our culture we would call them descendants. What are the descendants of Korah doing in the kingdom now? ANSWER – they are part of the worship ministry.

5 – The sons of Korah have just returned to Jerusalem in this Psalm. Where had they been?

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND – They had been in Babylon. The Babylonian Captivity, also called Babylonian Exile, was a period of forced detention of Jews in Babylon following King Nebuchadnezzar’s conquest of the kingdom of Judah in 598/7 and 587/6 BCE. The captivity formally ended in 538 BCE, when the Persian conqueror of Babylon, Cyrus the Great, gave the Jews permission to return to Palestine. The descendants of Korah had returned to Jerusalem from Babylon. Read Psalm 85:1 and point out the word captivity.

6 – What effect do you think having Korah as the patriarch of the family would have had on the family through the generations? How would that have effected you?

7 – Was getting home what they had expected? (see Nehemiah 1:2b -3). Have there been any times in your lives when you have felt you were in exile and then when you got back to where you wanted to be were there any walls that needed to be rebuilt? What are the purposes of walls? Why was having a wall around Jerusalem important?

7 – In spite of the failures of the Jews how had got treated them? Read verses 1-4. Point out words like “forgiven, covered, taken away wrath.”

8 – What do we see the sons of Korah crying out to God for in Psalms 85:6? Get people to read this in as many versions as possible. Do you want fresh life or you content with they way things are?

8 – What place does fasting play in bringing “fresh life” to our lives? Some possible talking points; a – it brings us to a place of weakness where we depend on God, b – it helps rebuild the walls in our lives (see Isaiah 58L6), c – it helps us experience the leadership of the Holy Spirit. (see Isaiah 58:11 – **“he shall guide thee continually.”**

9 – What happens when God revives us? Go through Psalms 85: 8 to the end and look at various things. Take time to especially talk about learning to listen to God. Get Psalms 85:8 read in as many versions as possible.

10 – What happens when we don’t listen to God? (see Psalms 81:8-15). What happens when we do listen to God?

**OBSTACLE TO APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

1 – What kind of a God would make a great big hole in the world and suck up 250 people just because they didn’t like what their leader was asking them to do?

**TAKE EXTRA TIME TO PRAY TOGETHER EACH WEEK – Take time to pray in closing that all of us will learn how to walk in the peace of God which passes understanding.**

**INVITE YOUR GROUP TO PARTICPATE IN THESE DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING if you meet before noon on Wednesday. CLOSING EVENT OF PRAYER AND FASTING – Zoom Prayer meeting at 8:45 pm Wednesday.**