

No App For That

Life Group Lesson - Week of March 26

Life is hard. There is no app to help motivate us to do the unexciting day-to-day tasks like paying the bills, taking care of sick family members, facing stress at work, dealing with difficult people, juggling busy schedules, and staying committed in a troubled marriage. In fact, there are many days we find it hard to get out of bed and face the day's challenges. There is also no app for things that bring satisfaction in life like watching those you love grow in purpose, joy, and peace.

The wilderness can be slow and uncomfortable. Like the Israelites in the desert, sometimes we wander aimlessly and make no progress. But as hard as it is, it's often during these very times that God is transforming us and those we love. The Lord wants to move us—and our families—from a place of bondage to boldness. The arid desert is where we learn to rely on God, trust Him for the bigger picture, and take us to a new destination.

Read Numbers 27:12-23 and Deuteronomy 3:21 – 4:2

Moses recalls God's faithfulness to God's people. And here at the end of his days, after all Moses had done to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt, he himself is not able to enter the Promised Land. Moses does not get angry because he knows he is not able to enter because of his disobedience at Meribah (Moses failed to demonstrate the Lord's holiness at Meribah, see Numbers 20:1-13). But Moses asks the Lord for a leader, someone trustworthy to whom he can pass the baton. God already has it covered. The Lord has had Joshua in place all along.

1. Moses was not in this assignment for himself. He possessed a Godward-orientation with a goal to be faithful. More than anything, Moses wanted God's people to enter the land and become a holy nation pleasing to God even if he wasn't able to enter himself. What do your ultimate goals look like?

When your dreams are crushed, what happens to your attitude?

In your personal experience, how does the Lord want to transform our attitude during seasons of disappointment?

Moses spent time with God, so much so, that his face glowed with the light of the Lord's presence (see Exodus 34:31-35). As we spend time with God – in His Word and in worship – the Lord sets our face aglow. God wants to work a beauty treatment on us from the inside out. The psalmist declares: "Those who look to Him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces" (Psalm

34:5). Would you like to be "radiant with joy"? The question is, are you willing to meet often with the Lord as Moses did? There is no glamor in getting alone with God. And yet, this is how the Lord Jesus tells us to pray (see Matthew 6:6, 16-18).

2. When we fixate on problems we open ourselves to the paralyzing force of fear. Fear not only robs us of opportunities to interact with others (through mutual encouragement, gratitude, and mentoring) but fear darkens our countenance. According to the following Scriptures, how should we prioritize our life, where are we to fix our gaze (our thoughts)?

Psalm 120:1 Matthew 6:33 Romans 12:2 Philippians 4:8 Hebrews 12:1-2

Spending time with God is life giving. The Lord calls us to love Him first (above everything else) and then love one another. As with Moses mentoring Joshua, only human touch – interaction with another person – can transfer our purpose and identity in God's direction. Through personal touch, you have an opportunity to change the destiny of another individual. As you interact with other persons through mentoring and positive influence, your life will increase in purpose. There is no app to add value to another, nor is there an app to pass along a legacy. But you can choose to do this and unleash the power that investing in someone else brings.

3. Are you willing to pass along hope and encouragement to someone around you? Who has the Lord placed in your close proximity (as with Moses and Joshua) that He wants you to invest in?

Joshua had been with Moses from the beginning of their wilderness experience (Exodus 17:9, 24:12-13, 32:15-20). God chose Joshua to lead Israel into Canaan upon Moses' death: "Take Joshua son of Nun, who has the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him. Present him to Eleazar the priest before the whole community, and publicly commission him to lead the people. Transfer some of your authority to him so the whole community of Israel will obey him" (Numbers 27:18-20). God used Moses (and his assistant Joshua) to segue Jacob's descendants from being a people acquainted with bondage to a mighty nation set apart by the living God.

We must remember that material things of this world will soon pass away and this earth is not our permanent home. Living in a Godward direction requires faith—it means believing God even when you don't feel like it or when it doesn't make sense. The writer of Hebrews says, "It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasure of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward" (Hebrews 11:24-26).

4. Moses was willing to identify himself with slaves. With whom are you willing to identify in order to make an eternal difference?

The theme this weekend is: "Stop Doing What's Not Working and Start Working What Works." What *works* about mentoring others and developing healthy relationships around you at home, at work, at church?

5. Close by reading **Philippians 1:3-11**. Hear it as a prayer of thanksgiving for you personally. Pray it as a prayer of thanksgiving for someone else. Spend a few moments in grateful reflection and worship.

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Text: Numbers 27: 12-23

The Plain Truth

Only Human _____ can _____
identity, direction and _____.

1. The _____ - We each have a _____
- God's preferred future.
 - a. We have to have a _____ orientation –
Our Goal is giving God glory by our faithful obedience in the same direction.
 - b. Who you are becoming will have a massive
_____ on those you _____.
2. Shape the _____ – Today's _____ shapes
tomorrows _____.
3. The _____ – What's the attitude?

One Year Bible Readings

Mar. 26: Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25, Luke 7:11-35, Psalm 68:19-35, Proverbs 11:29-31
Mar. 27: Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20, Luke 7:36-8:3, Psalm 69:1-18, Proverbs 12:1
Mar. 28: Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22, Luke 8:4-21, Psalm 69:19-36, Proverbs 12:2-3
Mar. 29: Deuteronomy 11:1-12:32, Luke 8:22-39, Psalm 70:1-5, Proverbs 12:4
Mar. 30: Deuteronomy 13:1-15:23, Luke 8:40-9:6, Psalm 71:1-24, Proverbs 12:5-7
Mar. 31: Deuteronomy 16:1-17:20, Luke 9:7-27, Psalm 72:1-20, Proverbs 12:8-9
Apr. 1: Deuteronomy 18:1-20:20, Luke 9:28-50, Psalm 73:1-28, Proverbs 12:10

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