

PSALMS: Week 8 – Wrestling with Consequences

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

The historical setting of Psalm 137 was the conquest of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. Although the author is unknown, he was doubtless a victim of the exile because he expressed the homesickness of those carried off into a foreign land. The Israelites had turned a deaf ear to the warnings of the prophets and were now suffering the consequences of their disobedience. Their once joy-filled memories now brought them tears.

Tell the story – Psalm 137 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[God is righteous and just and must punish sin; God's Word gives us clear direction on how to live our lives; God allows us to suffer the consequences of our sin; the Lord disciplines the ones He loves (Hebrews 12:6); God should have the highest place and priority in our lives (Matthew 6:33); God is near to the broken-hearted (Psalm 34:18); God will fulfill His promises; God commands us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44); etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I often fail to value God's blessings until they are gone; just like the Israelites, I can be stiff-necked and refuse to follow the Lord's leadership; it usually takes me suffering the consequences of my sin before I make changes in my life; I can let difficult circumstances rob me of my joy; I am prone to seek revenge instead of entrusting judgment to God; I can experience the peace of God in the most difficult of circumstances (Philippians 4:6-7); etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other questions specific to this passage:

1. Forgiveness doesn't mean forgetting or excusing. It means deciding not to retaliate and leaving justice to God. What wrongs are hard for you to forgive?
2. Do you have a relationship that needs reconciling? What is your part in the process?

Assign next week's passage – Psalm 139 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

PSALMS: Week 8 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

Place an empty chair in your Grow Group today. Have your group focus on praying about inviting others to your group. Take time during group to discuss who each of you plan to welcome into your group as you prepare to kick-off strong in the fall. Verbal face-to-face invitations go a long way, but go the extra mile as well and send a card in the mail or a small “happy” just to let them know how much you really want them to experience group. But never forget to pray, pray, pray!

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

As everyone starts to get back into the swing of things, challenge your Grow Group to be intentional with how they spend their time. Emphasize the importance of family dinners and regular date nights. Between work, homework, and extra curricular activities, we tend to forget to have meaningful conversations with our kids and to spend daily time with God. Challenge them, as they start routines, to include these things early on and don’t let them get watered down by busy schedules.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

In Galatians 5, Paul speaks of the battle between the flesh and the Spirit. The flesh describes the parts of us that, despite our salvation, cause us to rebel against God. The Spirit is God working within us, renewing us from the inside out, to reflect His character. The way our speech works to build up or tear down others represents a vital battlefield between the flesh and the Spirit. The flesh leads us to seek our best interest, to prove that we are right, and to win at all cost. The Spirit speaks truth in love, seeks the best interest of others, and fosters unity rather than division.

Read James 3 and reflect on the following:

- ☐ How does my speech reflect the battle between the flesh and the Spirit going on within me?
- ☐ What effect does my speech have on my closest relationships?
- ☐ What do I need to adjust to better reflect God’s character in these relationships?