

LIFEGROUPS COMMITMENT

THE FEAR OF COMMITMENT KEEPS US FROM GROWTH

One of the overarching themes of the bible is God's grand redemption of man.

God's love for His fallen creatures was the basis for His unflinching commitment demonstrated through some of the most epic moments in history: the flooding of the world, the choosing of Abram as the founding father of the nation, the deliverance of the people from Egypt, the fall of the kingdom, the return from exile, the rebuilding of the wall and the temple. The culmination of God's commitment towards man was in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God is committed to man. Period. Full stop.

Man's response to God's commitment can be described in one word. Find out what this word is at the end of the study.

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WARMING UP

1. The world's longest marriage stands at 86 years, 9 months and 16 days (Guinness Book of world Records). For those who are married, how has the commitment of marriage grow you? For those who are not married (yet), what kind of commitment is needed to build a marriage?
2. What is the deepest commitment that you have made?

INTO THE PASSAGES

**Read Gen 12: 1-3, Heb 6:13-20, Jer 31:31-34 -
God's commitment to His promise**

3. What were God's promises to Abram? What was the time span of those promises?
4. According to the Hebrew 6 passage, what are some of God's character qualities listed there? What is the link between the Person and His promises?
5. What was the greatest blessing that mankind can receive according to Jeremiah 31? What was the price that God was going to ultimately pay for those promises? What does it say about God's commitment?

Read Matt 4:18-22 - Who are we committing to? (Man's response to the greatest blessing ever on offer)

6. What must first happen before a person can start following Christ?
7. For the modern day disciple, how does following Christ look like?

Read Matt 8:18-22, Matt 11:28-30 - The cost of commitment (The greatest blessing and the corresponding obligation)

8. What was the difference between the scribe wanting to follow Jesus and the disciples' situation in Matt 4:18? What was Jesus' response to the scribe? What was wrong with the disciple wanting to bury his father?
9. What does Jesus say about walking with Him in Matthew 11?

Read Heb 10:19-39 - The implications for God's people

10. How many 'Let us' can you find in the passage? What is the implication of the last 'let us'?

MOVING FORWARD

Some Christians are living apart from God's purpose of redemption of man. But some Christians have immersed themselves joyfully in Jesus' Grand Commission. The Grand Commission is not winning converts but producing disciples.

For us to move forward in our faith journey, we must continue as disciples as we can only train disciples if we are one ourselves. Like begets like. Our journey as disciples starts with responding to the call of Jesus to follow Him as Lord.

LIFE TOGETHER

The overall counsel of Scriptures is clear. We are not meant to live in isolation. Consider just the two verses from many.

'Our Father who art in heaven.. (Matt 6:9). For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form **one body**... 1 Corin 12:13.

Pray for the rest of the BCEC regular worshippers to be moved by the Holy Spirit to join a Life Group.

Leaders Guides

These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

INTO THE PASSAGES

Read Gen 12: 1-3, Heb 6:13-20, Jer 31:31-34 God's commitment to His promise

3. What were God's promises to Abram? What was the time span of those promises?

There are three promises made. 'I will make you into a great nation'. 'I will bless you and make your name great'. 'I will bless those who bless you.' Those promises are still being fulfilled till this day. We who have faith are the spiritual children of Abraham. The gospel we proclaim are blessing all the families of the earth.

4. According to the Hebrew 6 passage, what are some of God's character qualities listed there? What is the link between the Person and His promises?

There is no one greater than God. God does not lie. When someone promises us something, we consider a few things. One, if the person has the ability to fulfil that promise. Second, we also consider if the person is willing to fulfil that promise. Third, what is the track record of the person. Promises are only as good as the person who made them. In God, He has been fulfilling His purposes before the creation of the world. Even today, He is both willing and able.

5. What was the greatest blessing that mankind can receive according to Jeremiah 31? What was the price that God was going to ultimately pay for those promises? What does it say about God's commitment?

The greatest blessing for man is to be reconciled to God, His creator. To be reconciled to God presupposes we can respond to God. And we can only respond to God if God enables us to respond. God will ultimately sacrifice His only Son to redeem mankind so that we can respond to God's love. God's commitment to us is sacrificial. He gave His Son.

Read Matt 4:18-22 - Who are we committing to? (Man's response to the greatest blessing ever on offer)

6. What must first happen before a person can start following Christ?

A person must first receive the call from Christ to follow Him.

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7. For the modern day disciple, how does following Christ look like?

Christ is the Lord of all and when He calls us, the relationship is clear - He is the Lord and we are His followers. It is also a call to forsake all else. The fishermen left their boats and their father to follow Jesus. When we follow Christ, it is not for a season. It is a lifelong calling of following Christ faithfully.

Read Matt 8:18-22, Matt 11:28-30 - The cost of commitment (The greatest blessing and the corresponding obligation)

8. What was the difference between the scribe wanting to follow Jesus and the disciples' situation in Matt 4:18? What was Jesus' response to the scribe? What was wrong with the disciple wanting to bury his father?

Unlike the disciples who received Christ's call upon their lives, there was no calling upon the scribe. The scribe took it upon himself to want to follow Christ. Jesus' response to the scribe was to quote him 'Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head'. In context, Jesus was healing many, attracting a big crowd and many wanted to follow Him for different reasons. Jesus' response to the would-be followers was telling. He was surfacing people's motive for following Him. As for the disciple burying his father, the Jewish custom was to bury the dead before night fall. The statement implied the father wasn't dead and that he would wait until his father dies before following Jesus: wrong allegiance.

9. What does Jesus say about walking with Him in Matthew 11?

Following Jesus is not easy but it is not burdensome either. There will be a yoke but that yoke is easy. There will be a burden but that burden is light. Being yoked with Christ gives us the picture that we are partnering with Christ. Since Christ is the stronger partner in the yoke, it makes sense that He bears the greater burden. He bore the entire burden of sin.

Read Heb 10:19-39 - The implications for God's people

10. How many 'Let us' can you find in the passage? What is the implication of the last 'let us'?

At least 3 'let us'. It is important to note the connective 'Therefore'. We draw near because Jesus has made it possible. We hold fast because He is faithful. Let us .. not neglect to meet together.... The purpose of meeting together was to encourage and to warn. By abstaining from meeting, we deprive ourselves of encouragement.