



growing courageous for Jesus | Wagga Rd, Aug-Sep 2023

God is the one and only, who is sovereign over all, for our good

This discussion guide includes preparation BEFORE the group and some guidance DURING the group meeting. Preparation before the group will help you, your leader, and your group to engage and respond to the living and active Word of God.

PREPARATION BEFORE THE GROUP MEETS:

The aim of this preparation is to encourage good & prayerful observation of the text of God's word and the joyful experience of discovering its truth.

Pray & read Judges 21

What strikes you about this reading?

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Do you have any questions about this reading?

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How does this reading make you feel?

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What do you think in response to this reading?

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What will you do in response to this reading?

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WHEN THE GROUP MEETS: Pray for your discussion time

read Judges 21

- What happens when the people of Israel do what they think is right?

- What is attractive about ‘everyone doing as they see fit’? What do you think the outcome of this is? Why?

read Isaiah 45.1-13; Romans 9, 11.33-36

- How does the illustration of the potter and pottery help you to understand the relationship between God and people?

- Is ‘everyone doing as they see fit’ an example of people pottery talking back to the Creator potter? Why/why not?

- What results do you see around you when ‘everyone does as they see fit’?

- Do you think God is good because he does not leave people to simply do whatever they see fit? Why/why not?

- Do you think a good and great God being in control of you is a blessing or a curse? Why?

Think it through:

- One of the most common ways the Apostle Paul refers to himself is: ‘*a servant of Jesus Christ*’. Discuss the idea of a servant as the appropriate attitude and action for *people pottery* towards their *Creator potter*. How counter-cultural is this idea for you, and for today?

- Discuss how the idea of being an ‘*ambassador for Christ*’ (see 2 Corinthian 5 for Paul’s use of this title) sharpens the focus for what it means to be ‘*a servant of Jesus Christ*’. What will the courageous ambassador do/not do?

PRAY!