

Sermon Discussion Guide




Exodus: A Repentant People

Exodus 32:1-21; 1 John 5:21

Ray Cortese, March 4 & 5, 2017

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Exodus 32:1-21; 1 John 5:21. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Ray asked, "What would you say on your deathbed to your children or grandchildren?"
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

A REPENTANT PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THEIR IDOLATRY

- 3 Idolatry is anything we put in the place of God, when we transfer the affection that God deserves to something else. What are some idols that are common to our culture? What is one of your golden calves?
- 4 There is the God who is, and then there is the God we want. What often distinguishes the two? Has God ever asked you to do something you didn't like? How do you typically respond when God fails to meet your expectations?

- 5 Identifying our idols: When you lay in bed and you can't sleep at night, what do you think about? When do you feel the most alive? Have you ever grieved over your idols?

A REPENTANT PEOPLE RESIST THEIR IDOLATRY

- 6 *Aggressive pushback.* Why does Ray think that one of the best thing Seven Rivers has ever done is have a capital campaign every three years? How will you pushback against the idols of our culture, particularly materialism and self-absorption?
- 7 *Worthy leadership.* We need pastor leaders who are willing to say the hard things. We need parent leaders who are not willing to give their kids what they want. Have you ever experienced worthy leadership? What was the point of the video of the kid's basketball coach? How might God be calling you to worthy leadership?
- 8 *A greater affection.* What stands between us and the wrath of God? How is the love story of the Bible different from Cinderella? How does remembering the love of Jesus give you the motivation to flee from idols?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?