

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

July 16th

Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)

1. If you could spend a day with a specific top of the line coach, who would he spend the day with? (For example, Al Linder for fishing or Vanessa Williams for tennis)

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 19
 - What attitudes do you see in this chapter towards the law?
 - What is the law so precious to David?
2. Thomas talked about God being our coach. Why is it so foolish for us to ignore him?
 - What steps can you take to better engage with God's Word?
3. Read Psalm 136
 - What do you notice about this Psalm? What kind of emotions does it create in you toward God?
4. The word "love" is the Hebrew word "hessed" which refers to God's faithfulness in lavishing undeserved kindness. Psalm 136 asserts that "hessed" is God's gut instinct.
 - How does knowing this impact the way that you view God?
 - We are to share in God's heart. What does it look like for us to reflect God's character of "hessed"?
5. Psalm 136 lists a number of things that God does because of his "hessed". What are some things that you would praise God for that he does because of his "hessed"?

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Torah and the Great Hallel

Psalm 19: Thomas Toedter Preaches

Thomas' main idea was that we have an incredible gift given to us in God's Word. To ignore God's Word is similar to doing a sport with a top coach, only to ignore their council. The wise man studies and applies God's Word.

Psalm 136: Jewish scholars refer to Psalms 136 as being the "Great Hallel" or the "great praise". It provides a template for us to praise our God. The Psalm contains an unique format with a line followed by "his love endures forever" repeated 26 times.

I. Psalm 136

- a. Hessed is God's continual kindness lavished on underserving people:** Once again we run into a Hebrew word "hessed" which refers to God's faithfulness in continually lavishing acts of kindness of undeserving people. Different Bibles translate it as "love, kindness, steadfast love."
- b. God acts because hessed is intrinsic to his nature:** The Hebrew adds the word "because" before each repeating line. The message is that God does great deeds precisely because his gut instinct is to show hessed to his people.

II. We can live with confidence in God's compassion toward his children.: There are many people who think of the Old Testament God as being judgmental and angry. But this Old Testament psalm is a declaration of who God's people had discovered him to be. We can live with that same confidence that God is a God of hessed to us.