

It's Worth Repeating!

Pastor Matt Schmid

Joshua 23:1-11

Starter: Have group members share any stories from their childhood or youth of younger siblings or friends who admired and imitated them; or if they were the younger sibling or friend, have them share their stories of imitating someone older whom they admired.

Discussion points:

1. Pastor Matt shared about influence, and the impact we can have on the generations behind us. Have group members read through the Bible text, Joshua 23:1-11, Joshua's final words to Israel, and have group members focus on the first point: "The things that we value determine what we want to be repeated." Have group members reflect on and discuss what they as parents celebrate in their children's lives, or if they are not parents, on what their parents celebrated in their lives. In light of Pastor Matt's first point, what are things that we, whether parents or not, can celebrate in the generations behind us to encourage strong faith in Christ?

2. Have group members focus on the second point: "In order to see the right things repeated, we need to look through the lens of eternity." Pastor Matt spoke of how Joshua, at the end of his life, took the opportunity to pass things on to the Israelites that were of eternal value - things that were worth repeating. Have group members discuss what potential opportunities they might have to pass things on to the people around them and the generations that come before them.

3. Have group members focus on the final point. In the first sub-point, "Giving God the credit," Pastor Matt points out that 99% of miracles go unnoticed in our lives. Have group members discuss with each other any time that they may have missed a miracle that God did in a situation. The following two sub-points are "Obeying His Word," and "Clinging to Him only." Pastor Matt then stated that obedience and clinging to God means doing what is right, not necessarily what is easy or comfortable. Have group members reflect on and discuss Pastor Matt's question: "if we do the easy thing, how are we any different from the world?"

Diving Deeper: Pastor Matt stated that "the things we value are the things we leave behind," which speaks to the idea of legacy. Have group members consider, whether at the meeting or over the next week, what are the things in their lives right now that they value (for example: health and fitness, a diet regime, a sport, a hobby, educational pursuits, career path, family, social circle, etc.). Looking through the lens of legacy and eternal value, have group members prayerfully consider if there is anything they would want to change or add. And have group members pray and encourage one another as they model the Christian life, and influence those around them and preceding generations for Christ.