

Small Group Questions

Sermon Based Small Groups – February 19, 2012

Adult Education – Woodbury Community Church
Woodbury, Minnesota
Sermon Title: How a Nation Loses God's Blessing

Notes:

Pray: Each week, we want to take time to lift up one another's prayer concerns. True Christians pray for one another. Take some time at the beginning of your small group time to pray for each other. Be real with each other. If you are hurting, take the risk and share how you are feeling with the group. If you have something that God has blessed you with this week, share it. Give Him the glory for what He is doing in your life. Record the prayer requests in the "Notes" section on the right of this page, and make a commitment to pray for the needs of the people in your group throughout the week.

Opening Questions: We celebrate President's Day this week. Looking back at the 44 men who have served as our Commander and Chief, do you have a favorite? Why did you pick that President?

The Bible is also full of great leaders. There are hundreds of examples of men and women who led courageously in their generation. Apart from Jesus, who is your favorite biblical leader? Why did you pick that person?

Read and Discuss: In the book of Leviticus God gave the Jewish people a number of laws that set them apart as a holy covenantal people. God had made a covenant with them that included great blessing if they would follow Him and punishment if they chose to ignore him. Pastor Brian talked about five ways that a nation loses God's blessing. The first was to embrace sexual immorality. How have you seen our culture embrace that which God forbids sexually?

Both Leviticus 18 and 20 spend a great deal of time talking about that which God finds sexually impure. For a New Testament perspective read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. What principles does the Apostle Paul teach us about living pure lives in these verses?

There is no doubt that we live in a sexually charged world where all sorts of sexual perversion is just a mouse click away. How have you navigated the pitfalls of sexual immorality in your life?

The second way a nation loses God's blessing is to fail to teach your children about God and His ways. In Leviticus 19:1-8 God talks about the importance of teaching our children to honor Him. The Jewish festivals were a great way for the people of Israel to pass on their love for God to their children.

The Challenge

How a Nation Loses God's Blessing – Leviticus 18-20

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How have/will you pass your love for God onto the next generation?

How have/will you make God a priority in your home?

Psalm 78 is an entire Psalm devoted to telling the next generation about the power and presence of God. Read verses 5-8 together as a group. (When you have time this week, read the rest of the chapter.) What do these verses teach us about the importance of training the next generation?

The third way a nation loses God's blessing is to cease treating others with dignity, honor, respect and love. Read Leviticus 19:9-18, 32-37. What sticks out to you about how God teaches us to treat others in these verses?

The fourth way a nation loses God's blessing is to embrace sorcery, witchcraft and cultic activities. Read Leviticus 19: 26-31. How have we subtly embraced such things in our culture?

The final way that Pastor Brian talked about a nation losing God's blessing was to ignore God's call to holy living. In Leviticus 20 the Lord goes into great detail about being a people who live holy lives. Four times in the book of Leviticus God tells the Israelite people to be holy as He is holy. What does holy living look like to you? How can we live holy lives in this generation?

Prayer: Take time this week to pray for our country. Pray for our leaders. Pray for President Obama, Vice President Biden, Governors Dayton (Minnesota) and Walker (Wisconsin). Pray for our leaders in congress at both a state and local level. And, pray about your involvement. God encourages His people to have a redeeming voice in the culture in which we live. Pray that God would give you the courage to speak up when you need to, shut up when you need to, and love at all times. Take some time to pray for the upcoming election season to. Pray that as a nation we would seek the heart of God on all matters, living in a way that honors Him.