

DEVOTED

Study Week Five Sacrificing

Leaders guide for "Devoted" group facilitators.

DEVOTED

Week Five:
Sacrificing

Study Week Five
Sacrificing

Leaders guide for "Devoted" group facilitators.

A word to all facilitators, especially those leading newly formed Devoted experience groups. Next week will be the finale of this series. Our hope is that all groups continue meeting beyond its conclusion. We want to assist any facilitator and group desiring to continue meeting. You will note that this week's emphasis, sacrificing, and Arron's message give us a glimpse into the early church and how it modeled the type of relationship we strive for in our groups ministry at Journey.

Breaking the Ice:

Play this week's primer video. Ask the group to read 1 Kings 3:16-28 from their own Bible silently. Now, from two different translations have the passage read out loud. You, facilitator, read verse 26 twice audibly and ask the following questions:

- *How did the mother in this verse model true sacrifice?*
- *Thinking back, when has someone made an unusual sacrifice for you?*
- *In both instances, the mother in 1 Kings 3:26 and in the 'unusual sacrifice' just shared, what were the motivating factors?*

Share with the group to recall that at the beginning of this series, it was emphasized that we are to first BE Christ followers and from that we will DO the works of a Christ follower. This is best demonstrated by the following passage. Now ask someone to read out loud, Matthew 25:25-40. Ask of the group:

What are some ways, in this passage, Jesus indicated sacrificial love? To whom were these demonstrations of sacrificial love directed? Focus in on and reread verses 37, 38, and 39. Ask these questions:

- *What is it about the RIGHTEOUS in this passage that, to most of us, is amazing? (They performed deeds of sacrificial love without counting the cost or keeping score or being aware, they just did it)*
- *How were they able to perform these acts of sacrificial love without counting the cost or keeping score? (they were filled by and under the control of the Holy Spirit, thereby doing His will His way)*

Unpacking this week's message:

Hopefully the group feels comfortable freely sharing their feelings and sentiments.

Ask:

- *What stood out in this week's message?*
- *How were you blessed by the sermon?*
- *Was there any aspect of the message that was bothersome? (If the responses to this question address the fact that Arron spoke about finances and giving, ask why that is bothersome. Please try and keep the group on task and not solely focus on the finances and giving aspect of the message.)*
- *How can we as a group model to our world the oneness demonstrated by those in the first church of Acts 2 and the sacrificial love demonstrated by the mother in 1 Kings and the righteous in Matthew 25?*

Bringing the session to a close:

Facilitator: prior to the session, read the account of King Saul's disobedience in 1 Samuel 15. To your group, in closing the session, share the context of 1 Samuel 15 and how Saul was disobedient and selfishly kept a portion of the plunder and did not destroy the Amalekites as instructed and spared Agag their king. Now read 1 Samuel 15:22 & 23.

Ask:

What is better than sacrifice? (to this point, try and get across the idea of sacrifice here is exercise in keeping score... "I have done this, therefore you should do that" OR "look what I have done for you".

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 emphasize the concept that, a sacrifice truly is a sacrifice in God's eye when it is not a sacrifice in our eyes, (refer back to or reread Matthew 25:37-39). It flows from a heart of love in obedience and with an awareness of what Jesus has done and is doing in and for us.

Close the session with conversational prayer, allowing each to pray as they feel led and the Spirit prompts. Designate someone, or do this yourself, to close the session by praying when there is a sense that all have prayed.

©2014 Arron Chambers

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®)

Copyright © 2001 by Crossway,

a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

All rights reserved.

ESV Text Edition: 2011

This message contains excerpts from the book Devoted. These excerpts may not be reproduced beyond the purposes of this message.

This material is being offered free of charge and is not for resale.

*GIVE IN TO THE LOVE
OF YOUR LIFE.*