

Small Group Guide: Torah In The Latter Prophets

Overview

Alex explores how the latter prophets served as "referees of the covenant," pointing Israel back to Torah and calling them to repentance. We'll examine the cycle of sin, judgment, and restoration promised in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 30, and how this pattern plays out through Israel's history.

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to give your group wisdom and understanding as you study together.

Key Takeaways

1. **The Prophets Were Covenant Referees:** Less than 5% of prophetic content deals with end-times prophecy. The prophets primarily enforced Torah, calling Israel back to the covenant they agreed to follow.
2. **The Seven-Times Pattern:** Leviticus 26 establishes a pattern of progressive discipline - when Israel refused to repent, God increased judgment "seven times more" until exile became necessary.
3. **Discipline Leads to Restoration:** God's judgment was never the end goal. Like a father disciplining his son, God's purpose was always restoration (Deuteronomy 30).
4. **The 70 x 7 Principle:** Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy (490 years) directly connects to Leviticus 26's pattern, showing God's intricate orchestration of history.
5. **Israel's Role as Prophet:** Israel was meant to be God's prophet to the nations, but their failure required God to send prophets to the prophet nation.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Foundation (15 minutes)

1. **The Covenant Context:** How does understanding the covenant curses (Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28) and restoration promises (Deuteronomy 30) change how you read the prophetic books?
2. **Progressive Discipline:** The breakout session described God's "seven times more" discipline like a father with his children. How does this picture challenge or confirm your understanding of God's character?
3. **Israel as Prophet:** What does it mean that Israel was supposed to be God's prophet to the nations? How did they fail in this role?

Applying the Pattern (20 minutes)

4. **The Purpose of Discipline:** Read Hebrews 12:5-11. How does understanding that God's discipline is meant to restore rather than destroy affect how you respond to difficult seasons in your life?
5. **Turning Toward the Temple:** Solomon's prayer (2 Chronicles 6:32-39) and Daniel's prayer (Daniel 9) both involved turning toward God's dwelling place. What does "turning toward God" look like practically for us today?

The Bigger Picture (15 minutes)

6. **The Interconnected Story:** The sermon traced one storyline from Leviticus 26 through Daniel 9, showing 483 years leading to Messiah. What does this level of detail reveal about the nature of Scripture? About God Himself?
7. **No Other God:** In Deuteronomy 32 and Isaiah, God challenges other gods to predict and control history like He does. How should this truth affect our trust in God during uncertain times?
8. **The Prodigal Pattern:** How does the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15) mirror Israel's story of exile and restoration?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Close by praying that God would help your group:

- Understand Scripture as one unified, divinely orchestrated story
- Respond quickly to His discipline with genuine repentance
- Trust His promises of restoration
- Be faithful prophets who point others to Christ