

Worship With Our Lives
Trusting God During Times of Testing

Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.

- Let's begin with our own observations. Was there a moment where God spoke to you, showed you something new, or reminded you of a familiar truth through the message this week?

Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.

- At Mount Sinai, God told Moses that Israel's purpose was to be a "...kingdom of priests." They were to be a people who looked different than all the other surrounding nations. What were some specific ways Israel was called to be different from the other nations?
 - Peter also uses this same language (royal priesthood) to describe Christians. What are some ways that we are supposed to be different from our current culture?
- Exodus 20-23 is a "job description" of sorts for Israel. If we could make a modern day job description for modern day followers of Jesus, what would that description involve?
 - If you (or your small group) needs a bit of help, turn to Matthew 22:36-40.
- Israel was called to give an offering of the material that the Lord provided. This was a way for Israel to learn trust. What do you think would have happened if God led Israel all the way to the Promised Land without ever leading them through the wilderness?
 - What are some areas in our own lives that we struggle to give back to God as a way to say "I trust you?"
- During the "time of testing," Israel fell back to what was familiar and what was comfortable to them. What are some familiar "idols" in our own lives that we revert back to when a time of testing comes our way?
 - How do you think we can keep our worship directed towards the true God during seasons of testing?
- Finally, we talked about the idea of "Admiring Christ vs. Following Christ." Are there certain commands of Jesus (i.e. loving your enemy, forgiveness, humility, etc.) that are easier to admire than to follow?
 - What are the consequences for simply just admiring Christ?
 - What are the consequences for truly following Christ?

Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:

- Luke 9:23-26
- Colossians 1:13-14

Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?

1. We all go through seasons of testing. Sometimes we endure and remain faithful to the Lord, but sometimes we revert back to old habits - the familiar. What are some of the familiar idols in your life and how can you identify ways to overcome them during a time of testing?
2. What are some practical ways that we can actively start practicing trust in the Lord?