

Bearing Gods Name Discussion Questions

Introduction

In your opinion, do laws take away freedom?

Chapter 1

Have you had a time when you've experienced liminality lingering (or languishing!) between one stage of life and another? If so, what was it like for you?

Chapter 2

The author claims that "true freedom requires clearly communicated boundaries." Can you think of examples of how this is still true today?

Chapter 3

Before reading this book, what did you think the command not to take the LORD's name in vain" (Exodus 20:7) prohibited?

Chapter 4

Like Aaron with the golden calf, it's tempting to minimize our own participation in rebellion. In your opinion, what motivates us to do this?

Chapter 5

The author mentioned several different ways to understand the number of Israelites who left Egypt. Which explanation do you find most plausible?

Intermission

How can the Bible present reliable history as well as transcend history by becoming part of our own story?

Chapter 6

According to the author, what makes Mount Zion impressive?

Chapter 7

What problem does the exile cause for Yahweh and what is his solution?

Chapter 8

How can Jesus' temptation in the wilderness serve as a model for us today?

What did you find most surprising in this chapter?

Chapter 9

How can we reconcile Paul's negative statements about the law with the author's claim that the law is a gift?

Chapter 10

Many people think of religion as a private matter. How does the concept of bearing Yahweh's name or bearing Jesus' name challenge that notion?

Conclusion

How can you take more seriously your identity as a member of a whole community of those who belong to Jesus? What would it look like to participate more fully?