

Growth Group Sermon Discussion Guide
"The Gospel in the Sky": Genesis 8:20-9:17

Open in prayer, asking God to reveal his heart to your group through this discussion. Perhaps offer a silent moment in prayer for those in your group to confess what is on their heart to God.

Opening ice-breaker questions:

- What are some important symbols to you that you see regularly? What do they remind you of?
- Have you ever given a symbol to someone else to express your heart toward them?
- Do you have a favorite memory of seeing a rainbow that you'd like to share with the group?

Pastor Andy said that Noah's sacrifice was the outward expression of Noah's heart; that by offering sacrifices he was expressing gratitude to God for saving his family from the flood. And, our sacrifices represent us "inclining our hearts toward God".

- What sacrifices have you noticed others (friends, family, or strangers) make to express their heart toward you? How did you respond?
- What are some things that people sacrifice for God that you admire?
- Take a moment to receive what Andy said in the sermon:
 - o "Through what we sacrifice, we incline our hearts toward God. By inclining your heart toward God you are giving him the gift he's always wanted from you – namely, YOU. Right now, you are pleasing God in his heart."
- If you are comfortable sharing out loud - What sacrifices do you make for those close to you? What sacrifices do you make for God – no matter how small or large? Are there things on your heart you feel you *should* be sacrificing for the benefit of others, or for God? (You can also offer a silent moment to allow people to ponder this for themselves without sharing aloud.)
- IMPORTANT REMINDER: "OUR SACRIFICES ARE NOT WHAT EARN GOD'S LOVE OR FAVOR, BUT SERVE AS OUTWARD EXPRESSIONS OF OUR HEART."

Pastor Andy pointed out that the covenant made with Noah, to never again destroy the earth because of sin, is an EVERLASTING COVENANT, and so we are included in this promise. God's heart is for us, for the long haul.

- Talk about how a promise like this makes you feel about God.
- What should our response to this promise be?
- What other aspects of this promise stand out to you?
- Does this affect how you will view a rainbow?

Close with prayer for one another.