

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 12.06.2020

HANUKKAH, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE – JOHN 10:1-11,22-23

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

This is the story of the cleansing and rededication of the Temple of God. The story begins with Alexander the Great who conquered the Persians and the world at lightning speed as predicted by the prophet Daniel. Daniel also predicted that Alexander would die, and his kingdom divided into 4 among his generals. These Generals and their dynasties continued to fight among one another, and the little nation of Israel was often caught in between these wars. Out of these 4 empires, arose a "little horn," the Seleucid King Antiochus Epiphanes who ruled over Israel. Antiochus claimed to be God and his title, "Epiphanes" literally means "God Manifest." This "little horn" exalted himself, caused the sacrifices to cease, put a statue of Zeus in the Temple (with his face on it!) and sacrificed a Pig on the altar. The act is called "the abomination of desolation." Antiochus and his horrible acts against the Jews became a type of anti-Christ to come. In light of the NT scriptures, it is clear this horn refers to a future world leader, the Antichrist who seeks to assimilate all humanity into a New World Order, which is overthrown by Jesus at the End Times. Lest get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most or spoke to you from Pastor Ray's message this last weekend?
2. What was your understanding of Hanukkah and how is it generally celebrated today?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HANUKKAH -YOU FIGHT THE DARKNESS BY SHINING THE LIGHT OF GOD INTO IT!

During the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, the Maccabees used Guerilla warfare to regain control of the Temple and remove the idol from it.

1. Pastor Ray called Jesus a new Maccabee. What you think he meant by that?
2. How is Jesus different from the way the Maccabees fought their battles?
3. How does this give us an example of how we should fight our battles?
4. Have a volunteer recall the story of the Menorah in the Temple at the time of the Maccabees. Why do they celebrate Hanukkah?
5. How many days did the candle burn and why is that so miraculous?

HAVE A VOLUTEER READ JOHN 10:22-23

1. What is the feast of dedication?
2. Do you think that Jesus celebrated Hanukkah?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 10:1-11

1. When in your life have you found yourself “following a stranger”—a person who eventually led you astray?
2. Who did Jesus call “thieves and robbers” (v. 8)? Why did they deserve this designation?
3. What is the significance of the door within this passage?
4. Why is important that we know Jesus is the “good shepherd” as opposed to just the “shepherd”? In these passages, what separates the good shepherd from the hired man?
5. How do the sheep respond to the good shepherd?
6. What does it mean to have life “to the full” (v. 10)? Do Christians really have fuller lives than non-Christians? Why or why not?

Jesus was born to die, and His sacrifice was the Doorway into the Kingdom of God. Unlike the Maccabees, it was through Love and Sacrifice that Jesus rededicated the Temple! To the Zealots, Hanukkah meant the Kingdom would come through violence if necessary, the exploits of the Maccabees and their miraculous victory being the prime example. Jesus is the New Maccabee, the Messiah, the Son of David who would forever overthrow the enemies of Israel and establish the Kingdom.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

When they came to Rededicate the Temple, they came to the Menorah, and it had only 1 days’ worth of Holy Oil, a special blend that could only be used in the Temple. It would take another 8 days to make another batch of this Holy Anointed Oil. So, they prayed and watched as the one cruise of Oil miraculously lasted for 8 days!

Pastor Ray has encouraged us to take part in Hanukkah (Dec 10-18) by lighting a candle each night and praying and remembering Gods faithfulness in delivering us from sin and shame and from all the power of the enemy. May the Lord give us the power to keep fighting the Good Fight in Jesus!

1. How do you need Jesus to “shepherd” you at this moment in your life?
2. How has this group been a “safe pen” for you? What have you especially appreciated about what you have received in this group?
3. What is keeping you from living your life “to the full”? How can the members of this group continue to pray for you so that you may live your life to the full?

PRAYER - Pray for the group, that God would help each member continually listen to the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Pray that members would resist the other voices that seek to lead them astray. Ask God to use you to help others recognize Jesus’ voice.

“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (John 8:12)