

Growth Groups Study on 1 Kings 5 – Jesus will build His church; so let's get building!

The goal of this growth group study is to encourage each other to put into practice what we learnt on Sunday. Feel free to prayerfully work out and discuss how to do this.

Recap and Feedback from Last Time

Last time we were challenged not have 'a foot in both camps'. Share how easy that can be and what you've done to take account of God's will for your life (and even encouraged others to do the same)?

Introducing the Issue

Our society (especially for our younger people) feel the need to give their lives to a Cause (Climate Change, BLM, Equality & Diversity, Feminism, ...). There is something within us that wants to our lives to be involved in something bigger and longer-lasting than our individual lives. How would you explain to your friends that building Christ's Kingdom is the answer to this yearning?

Reflecting on 1 Kings 5

This chapter can be split into 3 chunks: vv 1-6; vv 7-11; vv 12-18. What do you think is the main lesson (about God and what we should do) of each section? (You may/may not agree with my conclusions that I brought out on Sunday).

From the first group of verses (vv 1-6), what motivates Solomon to build the Temple?

Solomon gives his life to honouring God and getting on with what God had promised. That shows the wisdom of God in his life. Spend some time finding out/discussing what God has promised us about our future with Jesus.

How often do we think about these promises and make them central to our motivation? How often did Jesus do this? (in Luke, Jesus talks about 'fulfilling' Gods purposes 9 times – 4:21,9:31,18:31,21:22,21:24,22:16,22:27,24:44)

The second group of verses (vv 7 -11) could be about God using non-Christians (people not in Covenantal relationship with Him) to bring about His purposes. Or, it could be about God initially bring about, as a foretaste, the fulfilment of His Sovereign promises that all people (including kings) will worship Jesus. What do you think?

What evidence of the Kingdom of God can we see now being (partly) fulfilled?

The final group of verses (vv12-18) show the magnitude, collaboration, intricacy, and sheer hard work of building the Temple.

Think about the idea of the Temple (what it represents and what happens there) and trace the 'theme' of the Temple in the Bible, from Solomon's building (1 Kings 5:5) to Jesus (John 2:19) and then to us! (John 4:20-24; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:-10)

The Temple building project, which took 7 years (less time than it's taken us to repair our church wall ☺) and over 180 thousand men to build, was completely controlled and directed under the supervision of Solomon through the wisdom God gave him.

God, in His wisdom, knows how to build a universe, the intricacies of the human body and Christ's Church (bring about Christ's everlasting Kingdom). How will you let this give you confidence to obey Him and play our part in His Kingdom-building project?

What practically can we do (and encourage each other in doing) to play our part in building Christ's Kingdom?

God is going to build Christ's Church – and He calls us to be involved in building it.

Things for prayer:

Praise God that He loves us so much that He gives us, not just an everlasting inheritance in Jesus, but also the honour of being in Christ Jesus and thus involved in His kingdom work.

Pray, therefore, that the name of Jesus will be exalted here in Calne through His church.

Pray that we would be obedient to our Lord, changed by Him and used by Him to build His Kingdom in our everyday lives.

Pray that in the coming Christmas season, we would celebrate the wonder of the Lord Jesus coming and the hope and light He brings to the darkness of our world. Pray God will use us to reflect Jesus' majesty, hope and glory to our community.

Pray for Hilda and her family. The funeral for Bill is next Tuesday the 24th at 1 pm

Continue to pray for those on the fringe of our church community. Pray that we will support them, befriend them and encourage them.

Pray for each other's needs