

Faith to Overcome Family Pain – November 26 & 27, 2016
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Leviticus 19:33-34

- What does verse 33 command? How should foreigners be treated (34)? Re-read the passage. What jumps out at you about these verses? What does it mean to you to be treated as native-born? Where are you following this command in your own life? What does it mean to love someone as yourself? Write down a few examples of this. What is something you could do to show God's love to a foreigner today?
- How do you think foreigners in our country are treated right now? What are some examples? Do you think that foreigners are treated as these verses command? Are there any areas where you could be a better neighbor to the foreigners who live around you? Is there anyone in your life who does not treat foreigners as outlined here? What is a way you could start a conversation with them about this?

Day Two: Psalm 9:7-10

- What is the purpose of the Lord's reign (7)? How does he judge (8)? Do you trust in God's righteousness? What does judging with equity mean to you? Why is it important that God should be a righteous judge? Why should we avoid judging others? What does God have as judge that we lack?
- For whom is the Lord a refuge (9)? Whom has he never forsaken (10)? Remember or read Hagar's story in Genesis 21. How did God show himself as a refuge for her and Ishmael? Has there ever been a time in your life when the Lord was your refuge? Is there someone in your life right now who could use such a refuge? Read these verses as a prayer for yourself or someone else who is struggling to see God in their circumstances.

Day Three: Isaiah 19:23-25

- Where will there be a highway (23)? What will Egyptians and Assyrians do (23)? Egypt and Assyria were enemies when this was written, what do you think would make them worship together?
- Who will join Egypt and Assyria (24)? What will this alliance be (24)? What does the Lord say about these three nations (25)? Israel is mentioned third in this passage, why do you think that is significant? God Calls Egypt "my people," and Assyria "my handiwork." In a time when both had oppressed Israel, what would these phrases teach God's chosen nation? How can we see our enemies in the same way today?
- Is there a group of people you struggle to see as God's people right now? Substitute the name of that group for Egypt or Assyria in the passage and re-read it. Use this as a meditation this week.

Day Four: Luke 7:1-10

- Where is Jesus (1)? Who does he meet there and what do they want (3)? What do the elders tell Jesus (4-5)? What do the Centurion's friends say (6-8)? Compare the statements of the elders of the Jews with the message the Centurion gives his friends. How do the elders honor the Centurion? How does his statement show humility?
- What does Jesus say in response to the Centurion's words (9)? What do you think makes him say this?
- The Centurion has a rational and logical reason behind his faith that Jesus will heal his servant without even seeing him. Have you ever believed God would do something like this in your life and had it happen? Are you afraid to be this confident in your faith? What

is an area where you could use more faith in Jesus' authority over everything? Use the Centurion as a model of faith as you go through your day.

Day Five: Acts 3.25-26

- What is the audience the children or heirs of (25)? What was God's promise to Abraham (25)? Jesus is descended in his earthly line from Abraham. How does Jesus bless all the nations of the earth? Read Hebrews 11:8-12 for more on Abraham's blessing. Both passages mention inheriting a promise. This is not an inheritance that we should keep to ourselves, how could we continue to pass God's blessing along to others?
- What was the servant's (Jesus') first mission (26)? This implies a second part to God's plan. The gospel did not stop with the Jews, but has been spread throughout the world. How is your life different because of Jesus? Have you told anyone about your relationship with Jesus recently? If not, think of someone you would like to share the gospel with. If you have a hard time sharing the gospel, talk to someone you know who loves to talk about Jesus and ask them to pray for you to have boldness as you talk to non-believers about Jesus.