

Discussion Guide and Study Notes

December 8th, 2013

Please use this guide in your Life Group discussion to help glean the most from our Sunday morning teaching. These notes are also excellent for your personal study and growth.

TILL [Get the soil ready]

What's your favorite tool in your shop, kitchen, or craft table? Why? What good is the tool without you to wield it?

Have you ever marveled at a craftsman or musician how they can so easily wield a tool or musical instrument even if it is of low quality?

SOW [What God wants us to hear]

Think about Israel's history from Moses to the Exile. How well did they do spreading the message about the Lord? How much did they like the favor he showed them?

Look back at the first few verses of Genesis 12 on God's Promises to Abraham. Has that promise changed? Why or why not?



Tend [Working the truth into our hearts]

Take some time to read Romans 11:1-32

- Regarding God's plan for the world, what happened to Israel?
- Who did God "graft" in?
- What is Israel's destiny?
- What's the final result of all this (read the rest of the chapter)?

This is not the only place Paul discusses this. If you have time, see Eph. 2:19 to 3:6.

Also, it's clear that Israel is not out of the picture. For example, see Rev. 7:4, 14:1, and even in the New Heaven & Earth, 21:12.

Harvest [Where the fruit is seen]

What does it mean when we say, "It's not about us"?

So, God's goal was not just to bless Israel. What is his goal? How does the church fit in? What are the pitfalls that Israel experienced that the church can avoid?

Like a tool in a skillful craftsman, how do you want to be used by the Master? In your community? In your church? In the world?

