

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

February 13/14, 2016; Altars

Speaker:

Pastor Heather Zempel

Scripture Focus: Genesis 8:20-9:1

Note To Leaders:

This weekend we discussed how like Noah, all of us experience seasons of new beginnings. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your small group. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don't have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

Icebreaker Suggestions: In what ways have you heard the story of Noah portrayed before?

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend's message?
3. In what ways did the story of Noah speak to you?

Specific Questions:

1. Pastor Heather talked about defining moments in life that carry us over from old to new chapters. We all experience new beginnings. What areas in your life may have been good for the last chapter, but are not so for this new chapter?
2. Noah put himself in a particular posture (one of listening, sacrifice, and worship) to experience the blessing of God. "New beginnings require new posture." What kind of posture do you need to take in this season?
3. When have you experienced a season of new beginnings where you felt prepared in advance? When have you experienced a new beginning that was out of your control?
4. Sometimes new beginnings require stepping on new arks. Other times, it requires us to step off of arks. What ark do you need to step on to encounter God in a new way? What ark do you need to step off of to encounter God in a new way?
5. What parts of your past do you need to leave in yesterday's chapter and take to the altar?

6. Where do you need to tap into the blessing God has for you so that you may experience a new beginning with freedom? (Leaders, sensitive topics may come up. Feel free to invite the individual to talk after the small group. Also, feel free to reach out to your coach/director for any necessary resources).

7. "When your life is altered, make an altar." Pastor Heather talked about baptism as an example. What altar could you make during this season to mark your life?

Challenge/Act:

1) Accepting Christ

(Leaders, provide this as an opportunity for the week. If someone has not accepted Christ in your group, make sure they know that there is always an opportunity and that you are available for them).

(If you have built your altar of being in relationship with Jesus) - How can you help build up others in such a way that will encourage them to build their altar of a relationship with Jesus?

If you haven't built your altar of being in relationship with Jesus, use this week to consider stepping out in bold faith to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Then, tell someone about it.

2) Baptism

If you haven't been baptized yet, consider praying about it this week. If you are interested, e-mail us at baptism@theaterchurch.com for our Easter baptisms.