

EXODUS

Week 16

Memory Verse:

do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

1) CATCH UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. Because God is our Father we are family. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?

What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)? Are there any practical needs you have right now?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2) REVIEW THE MISSION

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we have been sent as missionaries in everyday life to display God's glory and lead others to repentance and faith through belief in the gospel. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?

3) DISCUSS AND ENGAGE

Since we follow Jesus we seek to apply the Gospel continually to all of life. God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25).

Read Exodus 19:1-6 and 1 Peter 2:9-12

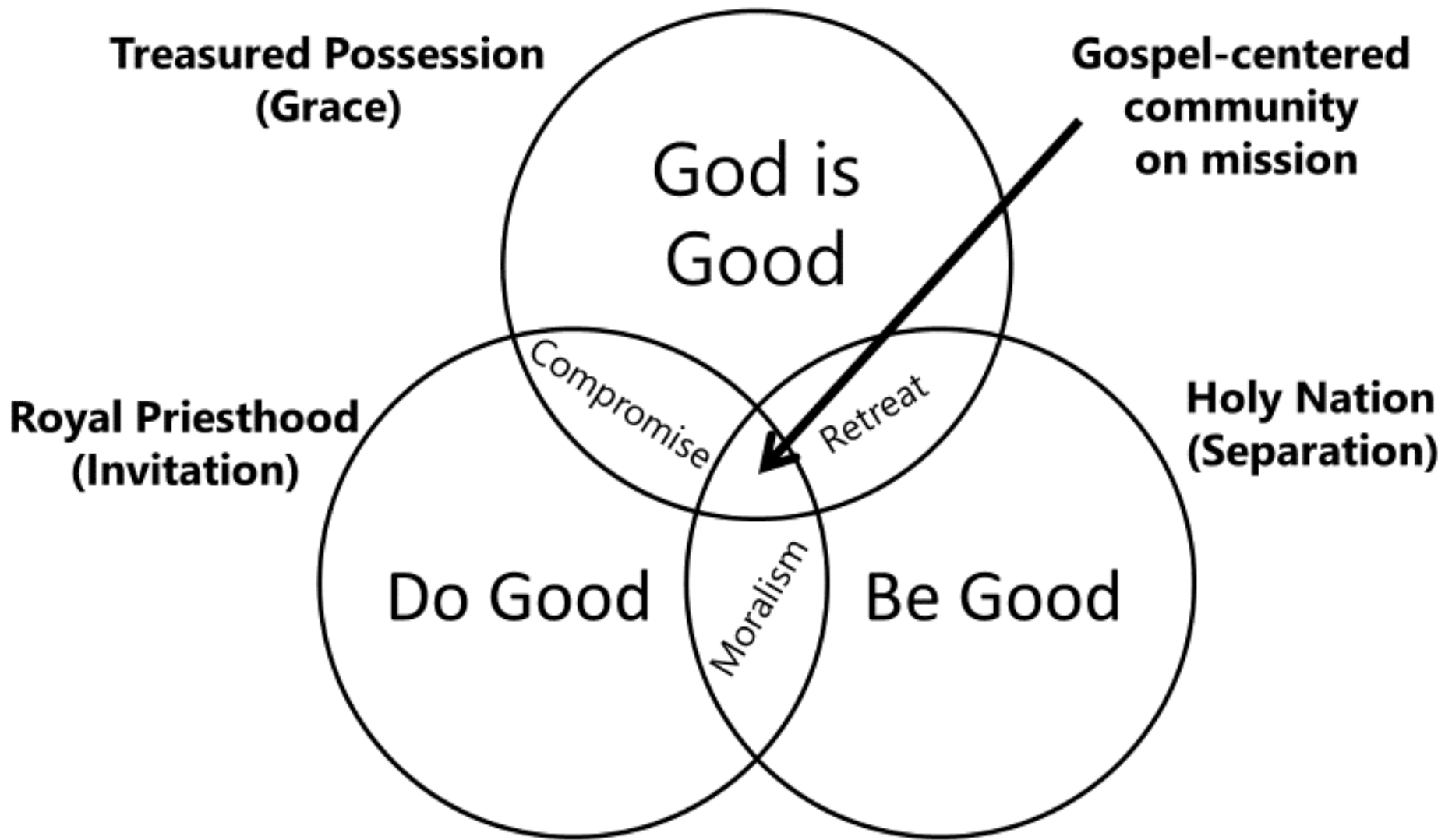
What do these passages teach us about God?

What do these passages teach us about man?

What do these passages teach us about what it means to be the people of God?

Have someone explain the Venn Diagram (on next page) that was introduced in the sermon. There is a key terms sheet on the third page. Use this as a tool to diagnose where you are in your faith. Note: this is a concept that gives us handles on what the church should look like. Admittedly, we are specifically defining the categories of royal priesthood and holy nation in order to separate out the two-fold purpose of holiness: becoming like Christ and reflecting the gospel to a lost world. All analogies like this can break down eventually, so try not to poke holes in it and just use it as a helpful tool.

Which of these descriptions does your personal faith most reflect? Which of these descriptions do you most need to grow in?



TERM KEY

- Treasured Possession - This is how God views us, his grace towards us (in calling us his treasured possession).
 - God is Good- If we only see ourselves as a treasured possession absent from any call to holiness, then we will not see the need for repentance or being like Christ. We will be dismissive of personal sin. We will not personally evangelize or seek to convert others.
- Royal Priesthood - We get to extend the invitation of Jesus to the lost as kingdom of priests who, by our lives and the message of the gospel, teach those who don't believe.
 - Do Good- If we only see the call to do good (invitation) absent from God's grace towards us (treasured possession) or the call the call to be a holy and distinct nation, we will miss out on giving the true gospel to the world. We will only communicate a gospel of good outward works without any message of grace or any emphasis on personal holiness.
- Holy Nation - We should not look like the rest of the world. We are called to be holy as our God is holy (Leviticus 19:2, 1 Peter 1:16).
 - Be Good- If the message we have is simply "be good", then we will be a self-righteous, holy huddle. We will not engage the world with the good news of the gospel, and we will not communicate that true righteousness comes from Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone.
- Compromise - If we just see ourselves as a treasured possession and kingdom of priests, we will not see the need for personal holiness and repentance. We will compromise Christian morality and conform more to this world than Jesus.
- Moralism - If we are concerned with obedience alone through doing good works and being a good person, then we are in danger of believing that our good works alone will save us. We'll believe that we can do good to gain God, which is the opposite of grace.
- Retreat - If we only emphasize God's grace and our calling to be separate and distinct, we will retreat from the world. We will believe that the world will corrupt us, and we will not share the gospel through word and deed.
- Gospel-Centered Community on Mission - If we own all three descriptions of what it means to be the people of God, we will both believe and live out the gospel. We will be a people of grace who want to be more like Christ through repenting of sin in community and declaring Christ to a world that needs Him.