

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, September 22, 2024 (Pentecost 18)

Jeremiah 11:18-20

(Recommendation: Read Jeremiah 11:1-17 as well.)

Discussion Starters

1. What had God promised to do for Israel in the covenant? What was their part?
2. Why would Jeremiah be forbidden to pray for Israel?
3. Since he is not permitted to pray, what is Jeremiah's role? Who plays that role for the church today?
4. What is the point of the covenant if one party (in this case, Israel) refuses to keep it (or is unable to do so)?
5. At what point does it become "too late" with God? How long does it take for His patience to run out?

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Discussion Starters

1. How do you know if someone is "wise" (instead of merely "smart")? What behaviors give evidence to their wisdom and what behaviors reveal that they really are not wise at all?
2. What does it mean to "sow in peace?" What is a "harvest of righteousness?"
3. Why do people fight? What does this text say is at the root of every quarrel and misunderstanding?
4. Suppose we ask with a proper (good) motive, and still don't receive. Why might that be?
5. How does a person resist the devil? How does a person draw near to God?

Mark 9:30-37

Discussion Starters

1. In what way(s) is a child a good example of what it means to be great in the Kingdom of God?
2. What does it mean to do something (anything) "in Jesus' Name?"
3. How does Jesus' idea of success differ from the standard understanding of our culture?
4. Why do you think the disciples did not understand what Jesus was trying to teach them about his pending suffering and death?
5. How do you make yourself "the very last?"

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?