

Sunday, March 15, 2020 - "Give It Up - Week 1: Control - Doug Kempton"

Key Passages: Genesis 12:1-5, Genesis 15:6, John 10:27

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Season of lent about giving something up for 40 days...this series about giving things up for a lifetime
- Control Quiz (answer yes/no/sometimes) <https://www.facebook.com/gracewired/photos/a.10150230672903301/10157746912818301/?type=3&theater>
  - If you answered yes or sometimes you might have an issue with control
  - If you said no to all of them you definitely have a struggle with control
- We have very little control...but God is indeed in control and He is good
- Genesis 12:1-5 (calling of Abram/Abraham)
  - 1st century readers would have thought this was crazy "No one ever does this!"
  - To go and to leave just didn't happen...
  - Agrarian/family based society...it didn't make sense to leave your family/business (family is economic engine)
  - This is why the story of the prodigal son is so scandalous
  - Abraham took assets and ability to earn with him when he left (impacted more than just himself)
- **Control is all about presumed predictability, a false sense of security**
- Safest place to be is in the center of God's will...IT'S NOT SAFE to follow God...the best place to be is in the center of his will
- ...to the land that I WILL show you (God would show Abraham the land but hadn't yet)
- Theme of trust keeps ramping up in the story
  - Abraham had to be wondering what God was doing (famine, had to leave the land God led him to)
  - Abraham is old and he cries out to god (Genesis 15:6 - Abraham believed the Lord and it was counted as righteousness) Abraham models HEAR & OBEY\
  - John 10:27
- The enemy of Hear & Obey is CONTROL
- It all comes from deep fear → desire for control → we don't let go of things we should
- Genesis 12:10 (famine → Abraham goes to Egypt → wife lies to Egyptians because he is afraid)
- Unrecognized and unchecked fear causes us to do what we shouldn't and not do what we should
- Best way to battle fear is to lean into the promises of God
- 9 steps to wean yourself of control
  - Fast from dispensing of advice
  - Ask for help and then be willing to receive it
  - Ask for and take other people's advice (think through who you're asking)
  - Let people around you fail and let them learn from their failure
  - Make a list of your fears and invite the Holy Spirit to give you God's perspective
  - Be vulnerable (with your fears, with your feelings)
  - Speak the truth over yourself (this is warfare and it happens primarily in our minds...replace lies with the truth)
  - Just pause. Stop and think for a minute.
  - Be gracious with yourself (this is a journey. invite the Spirit of God into all of this...practice HEAR & OBEY)

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What are some of the specific ways that you struggle with control?
2. How has God lead you to let go of control? What has he taught you?
3. How has fear kept you from doing what you should or caused you to do what you shouldn't?
4. Which of the 9 steps to get free from control resonates with you the most? Why?
5. What does it look like for you personally to invite the Spirit into your thoughts and fears?
6. Have you ever made a list of your fears? What did God reveal to you?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Exodus 17:1-7 Tues: Psalm 95 Wed: Romans 5:1-11 Thurs: John 4:5-42 Fri: Luke 21

Songs from the weekend: [Lion and the Lamb - *Bethel Music*] - [Great Are You Lord - *All Sons and Daughters*] - [Reckless Love - *Cory Asbury*] - [Sinking Deep - *Hillsong Y&F*]