

Connect Groups Gateway

Week starting 6/3/23

Debrief

1. Any stories from the past week you would like to share to encourage the whole group?
2. Any "aha" moments of breakthrough?
3. Any highs or lows?

Sunday Series

The Mission of God – ‘Whoever We Are, Wherever We Go’

In his message on Sunday Don said that there are some well-known pastors and speakers who are saying that as Christians today we should ‘unhitch our faith from the Old Testament’. From their perspective, the Old Testament might be somewhat interesting in places, but it really doesn’t relate to us any longer. They comment that we are in a different story, and actually, that old story is weird in places and embarrassing in others. It’s filled with things like patriarchy, slavery, strange food laws, animal sacrifices and other unmentionable rituals;

1. What does our group think of this approach to the OT? Is it something that actually appeals or resonates with us? Why/why not?
2. Has anyone struggled to any degree with some of the difficult passages we find in chapters like for example Deut 7, the eradication of the Canaanites.
3. Have these examples from the Bible, ever made us doubt God and His love , or is it something we just put in the ‘too hard basket’?

Don also said that Jesus and the NT apostles didn’t see themselves as starting a new religion called Christianity, but that they were fulfilling what had been started in Judaism. Paul in his writings does not reject his own Jewish story;

1. What are our thoughts about this; it is something we have ever considered?

Pray

Wednesday Morning Prayer | 6:45am - 7:30am | Gateway Auditorium

Please continue to pray for the men , women and children, living in the various motels along Ulster Street and in our CBD. Please pray that they would experience God’s love from those caring for them, and that they would be introduced to and impacted by Jesus throughout this season.

Praise Reports

As a community, our desire is to be resilient disciples of Jesus who celebrate and continually give thanks to God for what He is doing in our midst. Sharing what God is doing, retelling stories of His faithfulness builds faith and encourages us in our journeys - and this is what we want to do!

So if you or anyone in your group has a praise report or testimony, we would love to hear about it and share those stories (with permission) with our wider community! Simply email ana@gatewaychurch.org.nz.

Pastoral Care

We have a Pastoral Team at Gateway who walk alongside people in our community who may be going through tough times, need support or prayer.

Please phone **021 318 663** to let us know if anyone in your group (with their permission) needs our assistance.