

Saturday & Sunday, May 5 & 6 2018 - "People of Promise Look Up" - Norflette Shumake

Key Passages: Genesis 1, Romans 4:16-25

- 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/ Highlights from Kristine Bresser Interview (one of Grace's ministry partners)

- We are all people of promise
  - We are also called to be people of faith
  - God is Faithful and Trustworthy
- Creation Itself shows us God's character and power (Romans 1:19-20)
  - Creation is in order
  - It tells us about God because it is a reflection of his nature and his power
- God is REALLY good
  - He is good right now
  - It doesn't matter what we suffer or go through, He is good
- We are DEEPLY LOVED
- Genesis 1:4,10,12,18,21,25,31
  - Creation is a reflection of God's goodness
  - But what about day two? What's wrong with day two? (he doesn't say "it was good")
    - Nothing is wrong with day two
    - But in our fallen perspective we look for what's missing or wrong, we focus on the negative
  - What's right about day two?
    - Psalm 19:1 The Heavens are a reflection of God's GLORY = splendor, weight, copiousness, manifestation of his power, wealth, riches
- Genesis 15
  - Abraham was 75 when God promised him his offspring would outnumber the stars
  - But God had to call Abraham "out of the tent" (out of his current circumstance and reality)
    - God says that his promise has nothing to do with us, even though we try and figure out how to make it happen
    - God calls us to "Look Up" and see what He is able to do instead of just seeing our own limitations
- Romans 4:16-25
  - We are people of promise...but also people of faith
  - Sarah (Abraham's wife) was past her time to bear children BUT God brought into existence (the ability to bare a child) out of what didn't exist
  - When Sarah believed and declared that God was faithful is when he did it
- Abraham looked up and saw glory so he could the GIVE GLORY (Romans 4:20)
- God wants us to have an intimate knowing of his glory
  - That comes through the person of Jesus (Hebrews 1:3)
  - Jesus = a perfect reflection of God's nature and power
  - God is GOOD AND POWERFUL

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

1. When have you gotten a true sense that God is good?
2. How have you experienced the deep love that God has for you? Are there specific times or seasons that come to mind?
3. Talk about a time when you focused on what was missing or what was wrong more than what God was up to or doing.
4. Was there a time when God called you "out of the tent", beyond your limitation and circumstance, to see his Glory and power? What was it like?
5. Do you connect more with God being good or God being powerful? How is God calling you to believe the one you connect with less?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

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

Mon: 2 Timothy 2 Tues: 2 Timothy 3 Wed: 2 Timothy 4 Thurs: Titus 1 Fri: 2 Titus 2