

“Covenant Read”

10-11-15

Joshua 8:30-35

1. Read Joshua 8:30-35. Pastor Jim mentioned that this event is important for two reasons. First, this is the exact location where God promised Abraham this land. God wanted to remind Israel that this was where he had chosen to establish his relationship with Abraham. Abraham must only trust God enough to accept the proposal. Why is trust the main factor for establishing any relationship? How is following Jesus a matter of trust for us now? What are some things you've had to trust God with recently?
2. The second thing that happens is that Joshua writes out the Mosaic Law and then reads a small portion of it aloud. Pastor Jim explained that this describes *how* the relationship could be successful between him and Israel. Israel has a relationship with God because they trust God, *not* because they obey him. How is this a parallel of our relationship with God? Read Luke 5:1-11. How is it that Simon is able to obey Jesus' request? How does trust play a factor in this story? What is the end result in v. 11?
3. Just like Israel, how does our relationship with God go well when we obey? How have you experienced this in your journey with God? Can you remember a time where you disobeyed and things didn't go well? What does Jesus say about those who put his words into practice? (See Matt. 7:24-26).
4. Our relationship with God is based on faith and not on human effort or works. Why is this so important? (Read Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 3:27-30; Phil 3:3).
5. Take time to pray with your group. Reflect on the costly price that Jesus paid for your salvation and ask God for the courage and strength to obey him now that you are his child!