



LIFE GROUPS

THIS IS MY BIBLE
Part 4: Lifesavers
Zechariah
Life Group Questions

Getting started

1. Was there any aspect of the Sunday message that stood out to you? If so, what and why?
2. Pastor Rick spent the first portion of the message talking about the importance of learning from the mistakes of others. Are there any examples of people or situations in your life that have motivated you to live in a different way? (Read Zech. 1:1-6)

Digging Deeper

1. Do you remember the difference between pre-exilic and post-exilic? If so, discuss the difference? (the answer is at the bottom of this page, but don't look yet.) The book of Zechariah is a post-exilic book, why is this important to know?
2. In chapter 1 through chapter 6, we read about Zechariah's eight visions. Choose one of the visions to read and discuss. What does it reveal about God's plan for Israel?
3. When is religious ceremony wrong? When is it right? What is the purpose of religious activity (fasting, church, tithing, prayers, etc.)? In chapters 7 and 8, Zechariah speaks about how their religious activity became more important than their devotion to God. Discuss. (7:4-11) see also, Amos 5:21-24
4. What does Zechariah tell them is more important than their religious activity? (see 7:8-10)

5. Zechariah gives some of the most amazing prophetic images of Jesus in the Old Testament. In Chapters 9-14 we see these incredible pictures of the coming Messiah. See how Matthew and John used portions of Zechariah in relation to Jesus.

The triumphant entry of Jesus (Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:5, John 12:15)

The betrayal of Jesus (Zechariah 13:7, Matthew 26:31)

The crucifixion of Jesus (Zechariah 12:10, John 19:37)

The return of Jesus (Zechariah 12:10, Revelation 1:7)

6. Why would these prophecies of the coming Messiah have been an encouragement for those returning from exile?
7. Zechariah predicted these specific events concerning Jesus over 500 years prior to them happening. Why do you think people today still seem to have a difficult time trusting Jesus as their Savior?

Applying the Message

1. Do you value religious activity over obedience? If so, what changes can you make?
2. In what ways do these prophecies about Jesus reinforce your faith?
3. Zechariah gives a clear picture of the second coming of Jesus; in what ways can we prepare ourselves?

***Pre-exilic mean before the exile

***Post-exilic mean after the exile