

The Heritage of Christmas

Week Three: The Truth of Our Heritage

Connect Group Guide - 12.14.25

Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker

Question: What's something you thought you were created for when you were younger? How has your understanding of purpose changed over time?

Key Scriptures

- Genesis 1:26
- Jeremiah 6:16
- Romans 11:11-18
- John 10:16

Message Recap

We were not created to be saved—we were created to rule and reign with the Messiah. Salvation is essential, but it's not the end goal; it's the on-ramp back to God's ancient path. God's original plan was for humanity to partner with Him in rulership, and that plan includes both Israel and the Church working together as one family.

Key Takeaways

- **You were created to rule and reign with Christ**—not just to be saved
- **Salvation puts you back on the ancient path**—it's the beginning, not the end
- **Transformation is essential**—we must become like Christ to rule like Him
- **Partnership is God's design**—we cannot fulfill our destiny alone
- **Israel and the Church are united**—both are part of God's Plan A
- **Israel is unavoidable**—God has made supporting Israel essential to our calling

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding Our Created Purpose

1. **Pastor Chad stated, "You were not created to be saved.** You were created to rule." How does this statement challenge or expand your understanding of salvation and your purpose as a believer?
2. **Read Genesis 1:26.** What does it mean practically to "rule and reign" in your daily life? What areas of your life might God be asking you to take godly dominion over?
3. **Discuss the "ancient path" concept from Jeremiah 6:16.** What detours have you taken off God's ancient path? What does it look like to get back on it?

Section 2: Transformation, Not Just Salvation

4. **Pastor Chad said, "God loves you just the way you are, but He loves you enough not to leave you that way."** Why is ongoing transformation necessary if we're already saved? What areas of your life is God currently transforming?
5. **The message emphasized that we're being conformed to Christ's image so we can rule like He rules.** What specific character traits of Jesus do you need to develop to fulfill your calling?
6. **Discuss the "CD player" illustration (using something for a purpose it wasn't designed for).** In what ways might you be trying to use your life for purposes God never intended? How can you realign with His design?

Section 3: Partnership Between Israel and the Church

7. **Read Romans 11:11-18.** What does it mean that the Church is "grafted in" to Israel? Why is this partnership important for believers today?
8. **Pastor Chad emphasized that "the Church does not replace Israel."** Why is this theological understanding important? How does it affect how we pray, give, and support Israel?
9. **The message stated that Israel is now an "unavoidable topic" in our lives.** How does your understanding of Israel's role in God's plan affect your faith journey? What responsibility do Christians have toward Israel?

Section 4: It's Not Good to Be Alone

10. **God declared in Genesis 2:18, "It is not good for man to be alone."** How does this principle apply beyond marriage—to friendships, church community, and our relationship with Israel?
11. **Discuss the importance of partnership in ministry.** Are you trying to serve God alone in any area? Who has God placed in your life as a ministry partner?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE area where God is calling you deeper and take one concrete step:

Pray

- Commit to praying for Israel for 5 minutes daily this week
- Pray specifically for peace in Jerusalem and for revival among the Jewish people

Learn

- Read Romans 11 in its entirety and journal your insights
- Research the Jewish roots of Christian practices (worship, Sabbath, communion)

Evaluate

- Ask God to show you what "ruling and reigning" looks like in your sphere of influence
- Identify one area where you've been "off the ancient path" and make a plan to return

Connect

- If you're trying to serve God alone, reach out to someone this week about partnering in ministry
- Share what you learned about Israel with a friend or family member

Give

- Research ministries serving in Israel and consider supporting them financially or through prayer
- Plan or join a trip to Israel to see God's work firsthand

Prayer Requests & Closing

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to different perspectives on Israel; focus on biblical teaching rather than politics
- Encourage participation from everyone, but don't force anyone to share
- If someone wants to give their life to Christ during discussion, be prepared to pray with them
- Keep the discussion focused on personal application, not just theological debate
- Consider inviting someone knowledgeable about Israel or Jewish culture to a future meeting