

Spring Five: Amen

Main point: When we pray, "Amen," we are saying, "yes, it shall be so." We let go and have confidence that God has the final word.

Memory verse: Colossians 4:2-6: Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ...

Getting Started:

Review last week's Memory verse (Colossians 3:12-14), giving group members the opportunity to share these words from memory. Next read this week's Main Point and Memory verse (above). Pray together, asking God's Holy Spirit to fill this time of study, to change hearts and to change lives through the Word of God!

Get into a discussion group (3- 5 people) and share:

1. What's your favorite action movie, drama, or book? How does it end?
2. Are you the type of person who likes to read the last couple of pages of a book before going back and finishing the middle of the book (or, if you prefer movies, are you okay with someone telling you the ending, before you go see it?) How does knowing the end of the story influence your enjoyment or experience of the story? Can you think of a movie or book where knowing the ending actually changed the entire way you "saw" the story?
3. Read aloud Revelation 22:1-7, 12-15, 18-21. What images stand out for in this description of the final word spoken by Jesus' on his second coming to make all things new? Does knowing the end affect the way you live now?
4. Read aloud the main point for this week (at the top of the page). Focus on the phrase "confidence that God will have the final word." Do you have any experience trusting God in the midst of uncertainty or trial? Maybe in a situation where you wanted to know the end, but had to trust that God would have the final word?

Read aloud Nehemiah 5:1-13

1. When the people *said* amen in verse 13, what did they *do* next? How did they surrender themselves to God and his will? Have you ever changed your life after discerning God's will was opposed to your own?
2. Nehemiah had an overriding concern over the enslavement of the people. Read aloud Nehemiah 5:5 and 5:8 – why do you think slavery was such a hot-button topic for him? Do you ever feel like a slave to something that keeps you in bondage?

3. See Nehemiah 1:3-5, 2:2-5. When Nehemiah was most motivated to action, when the stakes were at their highest, and when he knew what he wanted to do - how did Nehemiah remain an "amen person?"

4. The people of Jerusalem changed their ways after finding that their attitude and behavior was offensive to God. Through their new attitude God brought peace and prosperity to the people of Jerusalem. How might we look more like these "Amen people" in our community?

Dig Deeper: Psalm 109 (Optional)

1. Read Psalm 109. Notice the emotion of the speaker, his frustration and desperation. Who does he go to with his emotion? How does he react? What actions does he take himself, and what actions does he leave up to God? (verse 1, 21, 26).

2. What does the fact that the Psalmist prays to God (verse 4, 21, 27) and does not take action against his neighbor say about his interest in having the "final word?"

3. What about releasing the final word to God is freeing? What makes us want to keep the final word for ourselves? Why is allowing God to have the final word so important?

Jump into action:

1. "An ACTS group is a small group of up to 12-15 people meeting weekly, living out an experience of adventure, community, transformation, and sending." Evaluate how you have integrated the values of "Sending" and "Adventure" into the life of your group during the JUMP series.

2. If you have already taken part in a sending activity, talk about how the event affected the people you served. How could a longer-term demonstration of love and care to them have a different effect than a one-time show of love and care? Consider how your group can continue to serve these same people on a consistent basis.

3. Read aloud the memory verse for the coming week one more time. Close in prayer, especially thank God that he has the final word - and that it is a good word for his people. Ask for the strength to surrender to him the last word, and for His wisdom in moving forward together as a community.