

NINEVAH

Stewardship — the faithful management of that which belongs to another; entrusted oversight, not ownership.

Trust — confident reliance on the character of another, sufficient to place something valuable in their hands.

WEEK 3: TRUST — THE CURRENCY OF STEWARDSHIP

Taught by Pastor Cole Jones

PRE-SUBMITTED QUESTION

Submitted by Diann Williams

As a New Testament believer, are you only required to give cheerfully? Or do you have to tithe?

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

Before We Study — Talk It Out

- ☐ Are you the type of person who gives trust, and it can be lost — or are you the kind of person that trust must be earned?
- ☐ What causes you to trust a person?
- ☐ What are some things that cause you to no longer trust something you used to trust?
- ☐ Does delay cause you not to trust whether something is genuine?

STUDY

The Promise Nimrod Built Around

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth." (Genesis 9:12-17 (NIV))

Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD." The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Uruk, Akkad and Kalneh, in Shinar. (Genesis 10:8-10 (NIV))

Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. He was the grandson of Ham, the son of Noah, a bold man, and of great strength of hand. He

persuaded them not to ascribe it to God, as if it were through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness...he said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to be able to reach! and that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers! (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, 1.4.2)

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Why would someone have all the evidence and still not trust the projected outcome?

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?" (Isaiah 7:10-13 (NIV))

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What does avoiding the truth/a sign do for your internal monologue?

At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land...they gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large...We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land..."We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." (Numbers 13:25-33 (NIV, selected))

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Why was their assessment of the land enough to keep them out of promise?

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." (Ruth 1:16-17 (NIV))

DISCUSSION

For Group Conversation

- ☐ Where has delay made you question whether God's promises toward you are genuine?
- ☐ Is there an area of your life you have not surrendered to God because you have not yet decided He can be trusted with it?
- ☐ What would it look like this week to steward what's in your hands — time, money, relationships — like someone who already trusts the Owner?