

## Small Group Notes: Pembury Baptist Church, 19th October 2010

### Week One: Meltdown

#### Series: The Land Between

Date: October 17<sup>th</sup> 2010

#### THE BIG IDEA:

In the 'Land Between', God provides.

#### OPENING ICE-BREAKER:

Give people a couple of minutes to think about an experience that completes the sentence 'God provided for me when \_\_\_\_\_'. Ask them to share it with the rest of the group.

#### BIBLE READINGS

- **Key Verses: Number 11: 13-17, 21-23**
- Matthew 6:31-32
- Matthew 11:28

#### THOUGHTS

*"You are not where you once were. You are not where you're going to be. You are in a confusing zone. Welcome to The Land Between."*

1. **Moses prayed for help:** Last week we noticed that Moses was at the point of emotional collapse and cried out to God for help. This week we see how God answers that prayer.
2. **God's response:** God asks Moses to find 70 respected leaders amongst the people to draw near to the Tent of Meeting, a special place that symbolized God's presence with them. Each will receive a special endowment of God's spirit which results in a multiplication of God empowered leadership. In the Land Between, God provides.
3. **God allows us to experience need in the Land Between:** These needs have a tendency either to discourage or debilitate us or to drive us into God's presence where we ask for his guidance and provision. Wayne told the true story of parents of a special need child who said, 'In giving us Kaci, God was giving us himself'; such was the influence of their journey as parents on their relationship with God. The journey was hard, but it was a 'dance of grace' as they cried out to God and he responded to their cries.
4. **How do we become people that see God's provision?** It's a well known exercise, but periodically 'count your blessings.'
5. **God promises to provide meat for a whole month:** Moses gets the answer to his prayers, but doesn't believe it when it is promised! God's response is a question we should all remember when faced with trials; **'Is the Lord's arm too short?' v23**
6. **Hundreds of years later, Jesus encouraged the same point:** In Matthew 6:31-32, Jesus says that it is a characteristic of those who do not have a relationship with the true and living God to be consumed with anxiety about where the next meal, shelter or clothing will come from. People who know God can trust him and be free from anxiety.

#### QUESTIONS

1. Why does God allow us to experience need in the Land Between?
2. When faced with need, is it tempting to try to take things into our own hands?
3. God answers Moses' prayer by sharing the burden and giving his Spirit. Can you think of times in your life when God has done the same?
4. Jesus links anxiety with those who do not know God, and freedom from worry with those who do know God. Why does knowing God free us from common anxieties? Can you think of other things that people in our culture today are concerned about but knowing God frees us from those worries?
5. *Is the Lord's arm too short?* Why do we sometimes doubt God's capacity?

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**VERSES TO LEARN**

'Is the Lord's arm too short?' Numbers 11:23

**WHAT WILL YOU DO?**

This week, make special effort to notice each provision of God and to thank him for it. See how many times you can say 'thank you' in a day and notice what it does to your heart!