

Small Group Discussion Guide

"The Ache for Home"

Z

11-28-10



Discussion Points

Big Idea:

"The church needs orphans more than orphans need the church."

Main Text:

1 Samuel 1; Ruth 4; Matthew 1

- Read and discuss the following Scripture. How do you live this out? What does it call *you* to do?

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27
- Review the stories of Elkanah and Hanna, Boaz and Ruth, Joseph and Mary. Then reflect on the following question: Why does the church need orphans? Talk about how each of the following answers to that question relate to you personally. Be practical as well as theological in your responses.
 1. To remind us of our spiritual lostness
 2. To reveal hidden selfishness
 3. To awaken God's story in us amidst the false stories that we live in
 4. To give our households a mission
- Name some practical ways you and/or your group could care for orphans and widows (You might want to look at last Sunday's bulletin insert for ideas).
- What did the Hovingh's and Smith's say that was helpful to you?
- What are some other ways we could apply these truths to people who struggle even if they are not orphans or widows?
- What else stirs in you as you think about this important topic?