



Sermon Discussion Guide

The Story of Hillcrest - Tim Knipp & James Junior

1 - 12 - 25

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
 - *How did you hear about and get connected with Hillcrest? What motivated you to keep coming?*
 - *What drew you into small groups? What has motivated you to be here?*
 - *Are there any items of remembrance from your life that are of personal significance to you? Possibly from an ancestor or loved one?*
 - *What does it mean to be appointed? When is a time in your life you were appointed to do something or that you had the opportunity to appoint someone else? What was that like for you?*
 - *Example: The president appoints a supreme court justice who then is confirmed by the senate.*

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
 - *Joshua 4:4-7*
 - *Who are all the people mentioned or involved in this passage? What are they doing?*
 - *In verse 5 the men are encouraged to do something. What was it that they were instructed to do?*
 - *According to verses 6-7 what was the purpose of the instruction? What were they to do with it later on? Why were they asked to do it?*
 - *Who would you say the instructions are for the benefit of? Hint: There is more than one answer here!*



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Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
 - Tim and James mentioned that **"To know who you are and where you are going who have to remember where you've been."** What do you think is at risk if we fail to remember where we have been and what God has done in our Hillcrest community? What do we have to gain by remembering God's goodness and faithfulness to Hillcrest over the years? Though this might feel like a simple question, some simple truths are worth saying out loud and remembering.
 - As Tim and James shared the story of Hillcrest with us on Sunday they mentioned that there were several key questions that Hillcrest has made a point to continually ask. One of those questions has been: **What are other unmet needs around us?** It led to the church acting and making efforts to reach those needs.
 - Examples: Reaching college students (CCF), caring for foster children (Royal Family Kids), etc.What are some needs around us that we have noticed as a small group? This could be in small group, in Hillcrest, or even in the broader community of Bellingham.
 - As you consider the needs, ask yourself: What groups of people don't have a chance to hear about Jesus both here and around the world?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.



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- *In Joshua 4 the Israelite tribes were each encouraged to take a rock as a symbol to tell the future generations about what God had done for them.*
 - *Do you notice any symbols at hillcrest representing what God has done in the Hillcrest community?*
 - *What could be a symbol for the Hillcrest community to reflect on what God has done?*
 - *Example: A candle on the sabbath. This is not some magical candle but it is a reminder to rest in Jesus and thank him for what he has done!*
- *How might the Spirit lead us to share Jesus with those who don't have much of a chance to hear about him?*
- *How can we care for kids inside our church and work for the good of kids throughout Whatcom county? College students?*
- *How can we continue to not be simply a show, but a real community of discipleship and spiritual formation when so many forces are working against that?*
- *How would you like to see prayer incorporated into the mission of Hillcrest?*

Time of Prayer