

Joshua 5:2-12 | HOW IS CIRCUMCISION RELEVANT IN 2019?

Study Questions from 10.02.2019 sermon

Read Joshua 5:2—12

Why Circumcision?

Jamie gave 6 reasons. Complete the reasons below. Did you learn anything new about circumcision? Did anything surprise or confuse you? Imagine a brand new Christian asked you why God instituted circumcision - how would you concisely explain?

- i. A sign they were part of...
- ii. A permanent mark to remind them of...
- iii. On the male reproductive organ to remind...
- iv. Required cutting flesh and spilling blood like...
- v. Symbolised discarding of...
- vi. Pointed to...

Heart-Circumcision

- vii. In Deuteronomy 10:16 God commands the Israelites to circumcise their hearts. Discuss what heart-circumcision is.
- viii. Why were there 'two Israels' in the Old Covenant? What New Testament passages explain this? Read them out.

How is circumcision relevant to us?

- ix. Reason 1: Becoming a Christian is about the heart. Circumcision (or any other outward work) doesn't make you a Christian (c.f. Acts 15:1, 11). Discuss how this reason challenges (or confirms) your understanding about salvation and how to be saved?
- x. Reason 2: Circumcision marked them out as God's. Heart-circumcision marks us out as God's holy people, set-apart & different to the world (c.f. Col. 2:11). Discuss how God calls us to swim against the current of 'fleshly living' and if you are brave, share your struggles, so your group can pray for you later.
- xi. Reason 3: Circumcision involves painful cutting. Heart-circumcision involves God cutting away fleshly desires - often a painful process (c.f. Deut. 10:16). Discuss how we can cooperate with God in circumcision of the heart.
- xii. Circumcision and Covenant Renewal got them ready. Renewing our commitment to God and his work will get us ready for growth (c.f. Titus 3:1). How can we renew our commitment to God so we are ready for growth?