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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Grafted In

TEACHING SUMMARY

This teaching examines the biblical meaning of being "grafted in" and challenges the common belief that God first included Gentiles in His covenant during the New Testament. Beginning in the Torah, the lesson demonstrates that God always welcomed foreigners who joined themselves to Him. From the Exodus onward, the Scriptures repeatedly declare that there is one law for the native-born Israelite and the sojourner who chooses to worship YHWH. The mixed multitude that left Egypt illustrates that God's covenant has always been open to all who embrace Him in faith.

The teaching traces this theme throughout the Old Testament by showing that Gentiles such as Ruth and Rahab were grafted into Israel long before the writings of Paul. These women not only became part of Israel but also became part of the lineage of Messiah. Isaiah likewise prophesied that foreigners who joined themselves to YHWH, kept His Sabbath, and held fast to His covenant would be welcomed into His house of prayer. These passages demonstrate that the inclusion of Gentiles was never a new doctrine but an established part of God's plan from the beginning.

The lesson then addresses the traditions that developed within first-century Judaism. Yeshua and the apostles confronted man-made traditions that separated Jews from Gentiles beyond what God's Torah required. Peter's vision in Acts 10 is presented as correcting this tradition by teaching that people—not foods—should not be called common or unclean. Throughout Scripture, God consistently invited foreigners who joined themselves to Him to become part of His covenant people.

The teaching next explains that God's people have always been identified by faith expressed through obedience rather than physical ancestry. While Abraham's descendants received God's promises, Scripture repeatedly teaches that true children of Abraham are those who walk in his faith. James explains that Abraham's faith was completed by his works, demonstrating that obedience is the evidence of genuine faith. The teaching

summarizes this relationship by stating that the Word is the seed, faith is the root, and obedience is the fruit.

The lesson concludes by examining Paul's teaching in Ephesians, Romans, Colossians, and Peter's epistles. Gentile believers are no longer strangers to the covenants of promise but have become fellow citizens of the commonwealth of Israel through Messiah. There is one body, one holy nation, and one assembly of God's people. The New Testament does not create a separate "church" distinct from Israel but continues the same covenant community established in the Old Testament. Believers are therefore called to follow Messiah's example by walking in faithful obedience as citizens of God's holy nation.

SUMMARY POINTS

- God has always welcomed Gentiles who join themselves to Him.
 - There is one law for the native-born Israelite and the sojourner.
 - The mixed multitude demonstrates that Gentiles were part of Israel from the Exodus.
 - Ruth and Rahab are examples of Gentiles grafted into Israel.
 - Isaiah invited foreigners who keep God's covenant to become part of His people.
 - Faith, not physical ancestry, identifies God's covenant people.
 - Abraham's faith was demonstrated through obedience.
 - Gentile believers are grafted into the commonwealth of Israel.
 - There is one body, one holy nation, and one assembly of God's people.
 - Walking in God's covenant is the evidence of genuine faith.
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FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. There is one _____ for the native-born and the sojourner.
2. Ruth and _____ were Gentiles who became part of Israel.
3. Gentile believers are grafted into the commonwealth of _____.
4. Abraham's faith was demonstrated through his _____.
5. There is one _____ of Messiah.

6. Faith is the root, and obedience is the _____.

Challenging

1. Isaiah 56 invites _____ who join themselves to YHWH to keep His covenant.
2. Peter learned that he should not call any _____ common or unclean.
3. The Greek word translated "church" is _____.
4. Stephen referred to Israel in the wilderness as the _____ in Acts 7.
5. The teaching states that the _____ is the seed planted within believers.
6. Gentiles become fellow _____ with the saints through Messiah.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to understand that Gentiles were welcomed into God's covenant long before the New Testament?
2. How do the examples of Ruth and Rahab help us understand God's plan for all nations?
3. Why does Scripture emphasize faith expressed through obedience rather than physical ancestry?
4. How does understanding that believers are grafted into Israel affect the way we read the Bible?
5. What practical difference does it make to recognize that there is one body and one people of God?
6. How can believers follow Messiah's example as citizens of God's holy nation?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Law
2. Rahab
3. Israel
4. Obedience
5. Body
6. Fruit

Challenging

1. Foreigners
2. Person
3. Ekklesia
4. Assembly
5. Word
6. Citizens