

Small Group Questions

Drawn from “Slavery and the God of the Bible,” A Sermon on Deuteronomy 23:15-16 & 24:7

Pastor Nicoletti @ Faith Pres Tacoma

October 4, 2026 AM

1. This week’s sermon text was about slavery. Talk about a time when you experienced a sense of drudgery in your work, your responsibilities, your calling, or your life generally. (This might include describing the worst job you’ve ever had, or a particularly draining and boring aspect of your responsibilities outside of work.)
2. Look again at 23:15-16. How does this compare with the practices of other societies in the Ancient Near East? What effect would this law have upon the institution of slavery?
3. Look again at 24:7. How does this compare with the African slave trade practiced in the early modern period? What effect would this law have upon the institution of slavery?
4. In the sermon Pastor Nicoletti argued that, in addition to what we find in the sermon text, the Bible contains many other principles and examples that severely limit and ultimately undermine the practice of slavery. Which of the ones he mentioned most stood out to you and why? Do you think he missed any important examples or principles that would have supported his point...if so what specifically? Did you disagree with any of the examples or principles he mentioned? If so, explain why.

5. If it's true that the Pentateuch sets Israel "on a trajectory towards the eventual abolition of slavery in their land" and if it's true that "the God of the Bible opposes slavery in this life, and in his world," then why does Paul regulate slavery in the church instead of condemning it and calling for its abolition? (Col 4:1, Eph 6:9)

6. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti highlighted the Bible's portrait of the Lord as one who liberates us from bondage. However, the Bible also frequently emphasizes that the people of God are His slaves (e.g. 1 Cor 6:19-20). How do these apparently contradictory truths fit together?

7. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti reminded us that we are naturally enslaved to sin. Where does the bondage of sin still have a grip in your life and how can this group pray for, encourage, and help you?

8. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti reminded us of the need to share the liberating news of grace with others. Who in your life right now especially needs to hear this good news?