

STUDY NOTES

NOT MY GOD

a series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Is God A Misogynist?” on 10/7/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 1,2,4,6, AND 16 (read throughout)

IS GOD A MISOGYNIST?

Atheist Richard Dawkins describes God as such: “The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.” Today we are going to answer the question: “Is God a misogynist?”

- *Have you heard God described as a misogynist? If so, how was He described as one?*

God created both man and woman in His own image (Genesis 1:27), meaning that both masculinity and femininity are an expression of God. Both man and woman are created equal by God. But not only that, God commanded both Adam and Eve to fill the earth and subdue it (Genesis 1:27).

God calls men and women to join together and to subdue the earth.

- *Why is it important to look at the creation account of men and women before the introduction of sin in Genesis 3?*

DIFFERENCES CAN'T BE IGNORED

Read Genesis 2:18-23. Adam was alone, and that wasn't good, so God created Eve. God describes Eve as a “helper”. Some people feel like “helper” means that women are less than men in importance. However, the word “helper” is one of the words that God uses to describe Himself. No one would argue that He views himself as less important than men. We can learn that difference in function does not mean any difference in essence.

The differences between men and women speak nothing of their value.

- *If you help someone else, what does that usually say about your expertise and the expertise of the other person in the area in which you are helping that other person?*

WE TWIST THE IMAGE OF GOD

While differences between men and women speak nothing of their value, under the fall we have assigned value to differences. It should not be that way. The Bible records how men—over and over again—used their own differences to abuse or silence women. **Read Genesis 4:23-24.** By chapter four, men had already taken multiple wives and then used their own physical position to posture themselves in a powerful way over women.

Remember, just because the Bible describes something, does not mean that God prescribes it!

In chapter 6, God expressed consequences for men. Their lifespan was cut from 900 years to 120 years. **Read Genesis 6:1-3.**

- *God wouldn't create a structure of abuse, but man would. How has the history of man made God look like a misogynist?*

In one of the more shocking scenes in Scripture, Abraham and Sarah took God's promise of a family into their own hands. Sarah gave her handmaid to Abraham to conceive a child. Sarah got jealous once Hagar conceived and both Abraham and Sarah banished Hagar far away. Even though God went on to use Abraham and Sarah, God wouldn't have any of the abuse. He also cared for Hagar. **Read Genesis 16:7-14.**

God sees and hears women—all women.

- *Why is it important to see how God cared for women who had been oppressed and abused?*

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

Unlike the culture of the day, Jesus treated women with the honor that they should be given. He empowered women, honored women publicly, released the voice of women, protected women, was funded by women, celebrated women by name, respected women, spoke of women as examples to follow, and first appeared to women after His resurrection (even though culture didn't hear them as witnesses).

God is on the side of the oppressed. God is on the side of the powerless. And God is on the side of the truth.

- *How is it encouraging to both sexes to see how Jesus treated women?*
- *Men, how does Jesus challenge you to better care for women?*
- *Women, how does Jesus give you courage to let your voice be heard?*
- *Pray for each other to honor and respect each other.*