DARK STINKY PLACES

The story of Noah’s ark and the flood is a perennial children’s favorite. Yet while the story of the construction of the ark and the forty days of deluge are familiar to most, the period of days within the ark is often glanced over. Anyone accustomed to being around animals will also be aware of the odors that animals diffuse. But just imagine not only most species, but all the species of the world, coming together for forty days (and then some). Each species with their own manner of consumption and elimination, you can just imagine the complexity of those logistics!

Now consider the level of sophistication the heating, ventilation, and air circulation systems would have required. With water coming down out of the heavens and coming up out of the ground for a full reset of the world, outside of its only window, the ark was completely sealed. And with a quasi-Armageddon occurring outside, it may have been rather dark on the inside for at least several days due to the weather conditions.

As uncomfortable as the ark may have been, one thing is for sure: it was worse on the outside. Despite the stench of animals, the darkness of the cabins, and the rocking of the ark, the safest place on the planet at that time was inside that ship. While “all flesh” was terminated outside, the vessel of life was that ark.

Similarly, the church may stink a little, and can seem a little gloomy. But spiritually speaking, when compared to the spiritual darkness of the world and the intent of the spiritual enemies on the outside, God’s church is the one place of safety.
Write out John 21:2–14 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, you may write John 21:3–6. You may also re-write the passage in your own words, outline, or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in John 21:2–14. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What has been your view of church? What is your connection to the church?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/disc11-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What does John 21 have to do with church discipleship?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/disc11-4
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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

John 18:15–18
Mark 1:16–22
Exodus 18:17–27

What other verses/promises come to mind in connecting the entire Grow cycle?

Review your memorized verse from John 21:2–14.
Where is Jesus in the midst of the prophecies of John 21:2–14?

What is Christ impressing you to do in your discipleship with Him?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?
Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what personal applications are you convicted of in your life?

What practical applications must you make in your local church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/disc11-7
Fishers of People

Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How can church become a better safe place?

How is the church the safest place?

What other views, definitions, and expectations of church are there? How are these biblical or unbiblical?

What other views, definitions, and expectations of discipleship are there? How are these biblical or unbiblical?

What will it take to enact change at the local church to meet these biblical views, definitions, and expectations?

How cognizant are you of the locality, globality, and glocality of the Seventh-day Adventist Church? Why does this matter?

Why is organized religion necessary?

How can we help the bride of Christ?

Fishers of People