

THIS IS US

OUR MISSION, VISION, & VALUES

Discussion Guide | Week 11: Biblical Authority | April 26, 2020

OVERVIEW In Ephesians 5:25-27, the Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus desires to make us blameless & spotless through “the washing of the water of the Word.” Why would Paul say that? The answer lies in why we would ever wash something in the first place. Paul is telling us that we have minds that need to be cleansed & purified. Our minds are almost always cluttered with false beliefs, bad attitudes, deadly feelings, twisted intentions & misguided perceptions. All of us have thoughts that we would call “just a little dirty” or even worse. But here’s the deal: they equip us for bad works. They make bad feelings & bad behaviors inevitable. This is why we need the “washing of the water of the word.” This is one of the reasons why we need to allow the book that has changed the world to begin to change us.

KEY VERSES

2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12, James 1:22,
Ephesians 5:25-27, Hebrews 8:13, Galatians 3:23-25

WE WILL STAY CENTERED ON GOD'S WORD BY HOLDING THE BIBLE ABOVE US AS OUR AUTHORITY AS WE HELP EVERYONE UNDERSTAND AND APPLY IT.

VALUE: BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

REMEMBER Toward the beginning of the message, Pastor Brad asked us this question: What would it be like to have a mind that's not weighed down by all of the garbage that you have in your life? Share how that would look in your own life. As followers of Jesus, what's the benefit in asking ourselves questions like this consistently? Explain.

REFLECT During the video clip in the middle of the message, Keith Ferrin challenged us to stop viewing the Bible as our owner's manual for life. He said this is because – unlike our car's owner's manual – the point of God's Word is to fall in love with its author. Why is it easy for us to fall into an owner's manual mindset when reading the Bible? What keeps us from seeing our time in God's word as a chance to connect with him, hear personally from him & experience life change (2 Timothy 3:16-17)? Explain.

RESPOND Brad quoted Tim Keller as saying: “Only if your God can outrage you and make you struggle will you know that you worship the real God and not a figment of your imagination.” For some, thinking of God in those terms seems extreme & uncomfortable. For others, it sounds refreshing & inviting. What makes it so tempting for us to visualize God in a way that lets us settle for the status quo & deceive ourselves (James 1:22)? Personally, are you allowing God's Word to speak into your life & change how you live OR are you keeping the Bible at arm's length & living in a way that dishonors God? Share where you're at with this right now.

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REAL LIFE This week, you have a choice: You can read the Bible to gain information about God OR read the Bible relationally & expect him to use it to make you more like Jesus. How do you need to change how you approach your time in God's Word over the next few days? What does it look like for you to ditch an owner's manual approach to the Bible & start falling in love with the God who gave it to us? Share.

PRAYER TIME This Wednesday, SCC will share about 6 principles for reading & applying the Old Testament in our lives. Make a commitment now as a group to spend time reflecting on them once they're posted. Ask the Holy Spirit to give all of you the desire to dive into his Word in the meantime.

NOTES

When we read the Bible...

- We need to read for transformation, not information.
- We need to read the Bible relationally, not just informationally.
- We need to apply the Old Testament differently than we apply the New Testament!

How do we read & apply the Old Testament?

1. Think principles, not necessarily promises.
2. No law except the law of Christ.
3. To better understand ourselves and God.
4. The New Testament always leads the way.
5. Read it to better understand context for the New Testament.
6. Read it to grasp the history of God's reach into the world.

QUOTES

"The Bible is the only book that has been written with the sole purpose of drawing you into a relationship with its author." – Keith Ferrin

"Only if your God can outrage you and make you struggle will you know that you worship the real God and not a figment of your imagination." – Tim Keller

"Most Christians are educated far beyond their level of obedience." – Howard Hendricks

"Deep is doing. Deep is not knowing."

"In any truly personal relationship, the other person has to be able to contradict you."

"Intimacy is where two people learn to respect one another in an environment of disagreement."



LUNCH CHAT

ASK YOUR KIDS THESE 3 QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ONLINE MESSAGE TODAY DURING LUNCH!

1) WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE BOOKS/SERIES TO READ? WHY?

2) WHAT ARE SOME WAYS WE CAN SPEND MORE TIME AS A FAMILY IN SCRIPTURE?

3) AS A FAMILY, WHAT CAN WE COMMIT TO DO TO BE MORE DOERS OF THE WORD AND NOT JUST HEARERS OF THE WORD?