

Hearing Aids: Scripture

Jan. 9th, 2022

INTRODUCTION

Reasons for series:

- a) God *speaks* – are we *listening*?
- b) Importance of spiritual self-*feeding*

CONTENT

God's Law was...

- To permeate the family & community (Dt. 6:6-9)
- To be written & read by future kings (Dt. 17:18-20)
- To be meditated on daily by leaders (Joshua 1:8)

Jesus...

- Grew in wisdom (Luke 2:52)
- Was known for his quiet times with the Father (Luke 5:16)
- Affirms the lasting authority & validity of OT (Matt. 5:18)
- Chastises people for not knowing scripture (Matt. 22:29; Mk. 12:24)
- Overcomes temptation by quoting scripture (Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-12)
- Suggests the whole OT points to *Him* (Luke 22:44)

God's *word* is...

- Truth (John 17:17)
- Living & active (Heb. 4:12)
- Useful for spiritual training & correcting (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

APPLICATION—*what's filling you (Eph. 5:18)?*

Why read the bible?

- a) God speaks through his *word*
 - *You don't need manna when you have a garden*
- b) Helps us live in God's world, God's way
 - *You smell like what you soak in*
- c) It's relationship-forming time
 - *It's about who you're with, not what you get*

Starting points...

- a) Jesus storybook bible (for families)
- b) Our daily bread (www.oddb.org; www.ourdailybread.ca)
- c) Gospel of John (www.bibleproject.com/explore/book-overviews)
- d) Audio bibles (www.biblegateway.com; YouVersion Bible App)

Discussion Guide

As always, these questions are intended as tools to help get a good conversation going—helping us better understand who we are, who God is and how this impacts how we live (or respond to Him). Please don't feel obligated to rigidly go through each one. Park on ones that stir up good conversation. Feel free to wander where the conversation takes you. As always, make sure to wrap up with application (this is after all, the main point)—how is this encouraging, strengthening or challenging YOUR faith and how can we live the message of this book out more faithful in OUR lives.

Blessings...Andrew

1. How has COVID affected your spiritual health, habits and rhythms? In what ways has this pushed you in a positive direction? In what ways has this pushed you in a negative direction? What things has it highlighted (sometimes crises have a way of bringing things to light we otherwise aren't aware of)?
2. What have been some of your bible-reading experiences? At it's best, what has this looked like in your life? What contributed to making this possible in this season in your life?
3. Read Deut. 6:6-9. What stands out to you in these verses? What questions does this raise?
4. What implications does this have in the area of family devotions? What has been your experience with family devotions? What has worked well? What hasn't?
5. Read Psalm 1:1-6. What stands out to you in these verses? What questions does this raise?
6. What do you think being *a fruitful tree planted by streams of water whose leaf doesn't wither* looks like in real life?
7. Read Luke 5:16. The fact that this is mentioned at all in ancient biographies of Jesus is unusual. What does this seem to imply and what implications might this have for us?
8. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 & Hebrews 4:12. What stands out to you in these verses? What questions does this raise? In what ways have you found God's word *living & active or useful for training & correcting*?
9. What has been your experience with *quiet times* or *devotional routines*? What have you found helpful (presently or in the past)? What challenges did you need to overcome to persevere in this? What word of advice would you offer someone considering taking growth steps in the area of bible reading?
10. If you and I tend to smell like what we soak in, are we and our families spending enough time with Jesus and in God's word? Is there a short or longer-term growth goal you need to consider here? What would this look like? How could others help keep you accountable for this?
11. What is one thing that stood out from the teaching this past week? What is one question this raised?
12. Where and how do you sense Jesus nudging you to respond? What might a faithful, obedient step towards this look like?