

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sacred Practices: Bible Study

Psalm 119:9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 24, 33, 34, 35, 37, 97, 103, 105, 127, 129, 130, 131, 171, 172, 174, 175

November 2 & 3, 2019

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to give us the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon and take note of its truths about God, who we are as his people and what's required to follow him.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. What has been your experience with studying the Bible? Was it modeled in your home as a kid? Are you modeling it in your home now?
2. Like the war ravaged family that had a letter from their father to help in their darkest and most desperate times, has there been a time in your life when you were desperate and found hope and rest in God's word?

Bible Study: The Difficulty

1. What have been some of your most common challenges when you've tried to study the Bible? In what ways is studying the Bible like taking daily vitamins?

2. Discuss how each of the difficulties that Brandon talked about are true (short attention span; requires us to slow down; requires work; cultural laziness, humility required). Which of these can you relate to most?
3. Brandon said that if we put in the (difficult) work of Bible study, that the return on investment is immense. Discuss how the analogy of small contributions over a long period time in retirement are similar to Bible study.

Bible Study: The Diamonds (Firm Foundation, Self-Knowledge, God)

1. What makes the Bible a worthy foundation for our lives compared to worldly wisdom? How do we know that the Bible is trustworthy, firm and strong? What is the connection between Bible study and a firm foundation - how does the former lead to the latter?
2. Studying the Bible doesn't just teach us who God is, it also teaches who we are. What are the Bible's main messages about our identity and why is it so important to learn about these things?
3. We were encouraged in the sermon to not wait until Heaven to get to know Jesus, but to study the Bible to get to know him today. Why and how does this motivate you to study the Bible?

Bible Study: The Doing

1. God designed the Bible for study for brand new Christians and for seasoned ones - there are no prerequisites or requirements for study. What makes this encouraging?
2. Discuss the practical steps Brandon gave and which you find particularly helpful. (Set aside time; use pen and paper; use repetition in your study; apply what you're learning; purchase a study Bible.)

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow him?