

Reading: 2 Tim 3:14-17

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS:

- *Read passage*
- *Paul lists a number of elements to how God's word impacts our lives. Make a list & ask 'which of these elements have you experienced?'*
- *How has God spoken to you through his Word in the past?*
- *What lessons did you learn?*
- *How might you encourage a young believer as they read God's Word perhaps for the first time?*

Questions from the sermon:

- *look at the 3 ways we can read the bible (study, devotionally, prophetically).... Which ones do you feel comfortable with?*
- *which ones would you like to grow in?*
- *How can this group support that?*
- *What are you going to do about it?*

Take the opportunity to pray and see if there are specific Bible verses that God brings to your mind.

SERMON NOTES:

Spiritual Wellbeing - a two way conversation.

Introduction to this session:

In 2 Timothy Paul is writing to his mentoree. Paul knew his life was nearly at an end, so this letter is a distillation of all that is important in the Christian life. It's his final words of encouragement young leader.

The above verses concern the importance of scripture. Paul urges Timothy to hold onto the truth of scripture; especially in a climate where people are gathering other teachers around them to say what they want to hear (still happens today!). In this context it is only the Bible that is able to **teach, rebuke, train in righteousness, and equip for every good work.**

The question we will be looking at today is: "**How can we hear God speak through the Bible?**"

Suggest 3 ways: STUDY, DEVOTIONALLY, PROPHETICALLY. (Text Book, Novel, Poems)

STUDY:

When we set aside time to STUDY the Bible a good place to start is to ask 3 'what' questions: **What** did it mean? **What** does it mean? **What** am I going to do about it?

1. **What** did it mean?

Every book of the Bible was written to specific group of people and for a specific purpose. This is the CONTEXT of the passage. Its good for us to explore this context in order to try and

understand what the passage meant to its first readers. We can ask questions of the passage to do this:

- **Which** – type of genre (just as we have different types of written communication: emails, letters, podcasts, youtube, text books etc, its the same with the Bible, there is Law, Poetry, Letters, History, Prophecy etc... and each genre needs to be read as such).
- **When & Where** – how does the passage fit in with the whole Bible story, what was going on at the time it was written. This will give a deeper sense of the meaning.
- **Who** – wrote it (although we don't always know) and to whom.
- **Why** – we may not always know exactly, but we can often by work out the main themes, and the situation into which the passage was written.

These questions help us understand WHAT the passage is about... its the foundation of study!

FOR HELP - Bible Project

2. What does it mean?

We are trying to discern what are the TRUTHS & SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES that will apply to us, today. Small groups are a great place for this to happen, as we can weigh up the passage in community.

3. What am I going to do about it?

In the light of the above what is the application & action that needs to take place in order for the scriptures to transform our lives. **James' Mirror.... (See James 1:22-25)**

Example: *Psalm 40:6 (ears pierced) & Ex 21:5-6*

DEVOTIONALLY: *(See Josh 1:8)*

This way of approaching the Bible, is by simply taking a passage (or a verse), and taking time over it. Reading it and letting specific words, phrases or verses speak into our lives. The emphasis here is allowing God to speak to us personally.

For Help - Lectio (from Dave Smith) - See the app from 24/7

- Read (lectio): Deliberately focus on a specific passage, verse or phrase, and read and re-read it several times, allowing the Lord to highlight a key truth to you.
- Meditate (meditatio): Combining the disciplines of observation and application, consider what God is saying to you through the passage. I usually like to journal about this, which helps me to slow down and to consider more fully what I am sensing, as well as to keep a record for me to go back over.
- Pray (oratorio): Allow your whole being to become prayer, taking time to honestly express your deepest thoughts, feelings and desires to God.
- Contemplate (contemplatio): Gently let go of all thoughts and feelings and rest with gratitude for what God has given you.

In summary, as we take time to immerse ourselves in the truths of the Bible on a regular basis, our values are shaped and our minds are renewed to who God is and how we are to relate to Him and to others. Through devotionally reading and reflecting on specific portions of Scripture, God speaks to us personally, by His Spirit.

PROPHECTIALLY:

This is when, as we pray for one another, worship together, God places in our minds a specific Bible verse / passage that speaks prophetically into a situation. It might be directing how we pray, be an encouragement, or even lead to conviction of how we are to repent.

Logos vs. Rhema

Example: Story...

Lets strive for a diet of all three!