

Small Group Study Guide

How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth |
From Sunday February 2, 2020

Appetizer:

Question: Do a pop quiz on Bible trivia to see who knows some of the basics of the Bible:

1. How many books are in the Bible? (66)
2. What are the first five books of the Bible usually called (Pentateuch)
3. Which three gospels are considered the "Synoptic gospels"? (Matthew, Mark, Luke)
4. Why are the testaments called "Old" and "new" (they have to do with covenants)
5. Can you name the 10 commandments? One of the Beatitudes? Any of the armour of God?

Read Luke 24:13-32 out loud. Have someone read it a second time, to allow the Scriptures to sink in by using a second voice.

A couple questions from the passage:

What's going on in the passage? What do you think the significance is (if any) of Jesus walking AWAY from Jerusalem?

Main Course:

Reading the Bible is something that we know we all should do, but often seen it more like taking our medicine rather than anticipating dessert. One of the reasons the speaker mentioned that made reading the Bible difficult was that we are no longer reading as much as we used to. Does this ring true to you? What other reasons are there that make reading the Bible difficult?

Regardless of whether it's easy to read or not, how we read the Bible is incredibly important. The speaker mentioned some of the tensions that come with reading the Bible, which include:

1. A hyper individualism in society where we don't like another authority telling us what to do.
2. A post-modernity that calls into question the legitimacy of ancient books like the Bible.

3. Other competing worldviews that see the Bible as not only irrelevant to modern life, but also dangerous.

4. Disagreements as to what it means to be biblical.

Question: Which tension do you think is most detrimental to the unity of the church? Why? How have you seen the Bible abused in our world?

Although there are many thoughtful ways to engage reading the Bible, the speaker presented a general stance that one should take when they first open the book. Pulled from reflections on how Jesus and his disciples interacted with the Scriptures on the road to Emmaus, it was suggested that we should approach the Scriptures humbly, on the look out to find Jesus in the middle, and with the desire for encountering the living God.

Question: Why is it important to approach the Scriptures with humility? What does this look like?

Question: What kind of issues get in the way of placing Jesus at the centre of all of our Bible readings?

Question: In what ways can we prepare ourselves to encounter God each time we go to read the Bible?

Dessert:

Challenge:

Let's take another look at our passage from Luke 24 and use some of the tools that the speaker alluded to on Sunday.

1. What is the context? Where is the story located? In what time? With which people? Who are the key players?
2. What is the flow of the conversation? What is the passage about in light of the conversation that has taken place?
3. What does this tell us about who Jesus is and what he is all about?
4. How should this message transform us today?