

Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone, see how they are doing, and open with prayer.

Learning

Knowing God

Key Doctrines

- *Revelation* – God has made himself and his purposes clearly and sufficiently known through the Scriptures. The Scriptures alone make known how mankind is to receive salvation.
- *Christ* – The Bible is given by God to us to make Jesus and the gift of salvation through him known to us. Every passage and every book of the Bible points us to Jesus.

Key Observations

- *Read: 2 Timothy 3:14-16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:1-6.*
 - What do these passages communicate about the origin of the Scriptures, and what might this mean about how we are to relate to Scripture? *These passages clearly communicate that the origin of the Bible is not human but divine. God is the source and inspiration of Scripture and is in this way his own testimony about himself. If God is the source of Scripture then it is weighted with his authority, it is his Word, and therefore is a word we are to listen to, receive, and obey.*
 - What do these passages communicate about the purpose of Scriptures? *These passages make clear that the point of Scripture is to “make us wise unto*

salvation.” In other words, there is nowhere else in the world that we can look to be told about what God has done to save us from our sins. The world and religion communicates that we can only be saved, or be made whole, or have the good life, or be righteous, through our own effort, performance, and achievement. Only in Scripture are we told that we are saved, made whole and righteous, through the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

- *Read: Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:13-49; Hebrews 1:1-2; John 1:1-2; 18; John 5:39-40.*
 - What do all of these passages tell us about the main point of Scripture? *These passages make clear that Jesus is the main point of the Bible, that is they are ultimately all written to bear witness to who Jesus is and why he has come. To put it another way, Jesus is the Word within the word. Jesus is God’s Word to us, written about and testified clearly to in the Bible. Jesus himself tells us that he is the “fulfillment” of Scripture, that the Bible in the Old Testament is anticipating a coming Savior and in the New Testament is making that Savior known, who is Jesus.*

How might understanding the Bible this way affect how we read it? *If we grasp that Jesus is the main point of the Bible, then reading it becomes a sort of treasure hunt, where we seek to find Jesus hidden in every page of Scripture. It opens up the adventure of reading the Bible and discovering in it all the “hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge” that are found in Christ (Colossians 2:2-3). It also becomes a sort of intimate and personal love letter from God, in which his secrets and his heart is revealed to us and by which we come to*

delight in and discover his bountiful goodness, glory, and wisdom. If Jesus is “at the Father’s side” or more clearly “in the bosom of the Father” and is “making him known” then what Jesus is revealing is the deepest most intimate truth about who God is and what he desires for us.

- What do these passages warn us against as we read the Bible? *These passages warn us that there are ways of reading the Bible in which we can “miss the point.” Jesus warned the religious leaders of his day against this, and so he warns us. If we read the Bible as a way to prove to ourselves or others how intelligent or devout we are, we are misusing the Bible. If we read the Bible as primarily about us and what we are supposed to do as opposed to a book about God and what he has done, we are misusing the Bible. The Bible is a book, inspired by God, telling us about Jesus and how God saves us through him, and is to be read accordingly.*
- What was anything additional that stood out to you about this week’s sermon on scripture alone?

Listening

Responding to God

- In light of hearing this week’s sermon, our study together, and listening to God’s Word, how might God be inviting you to respond?

Loving

Obeying God

- What is happening in my own life right now that I need to share and for which I need prayer?
- This week I am committed to praying for _____ about:

Checking Out

- What was most meaningful about this group session for you (*Give each person 1-2 sentences to share*)?
- Close in Prayer and Read Luke 24:44-45.