

The Bible | Session 1 | Trusting the Word | Psalm 119:65-72

These studies are written for small groups but can be adapted for individual use and are intended to accompany our sermon series.

IN – Who is at the table? (10 minutes) If in a group ask someone to pray for those who are absent and send them an encouraging text, briefly catch up with each other if you haven't done so already. Share with each other how you first came to read the Bible.

UP - Where is Jesus at the table? Spend 30 minutes studying scripture which should lead you into a time of worship and seeking His presence for the remaining time you have together.

Read Psalm 119:65-72

1. How many different terms for Scripture are used in this passage? How does that illuminate us to how the Psalmist values it?
2. The Psalmist seem to trust the words of Scripture for a number of reasons, both in terms of his experience of them, and whose words they are. How does this relate to your relationship with Scripture – what experiences have you had with it, and how has that grown your trust of it?
3. Despite the high view of Scripture, why is what the Psalmist writes not 'bibliolatry' i.e. worship of Scripture? How does this help in how we hold a right place of valuing Scripture?
4. What challenges to trusting Scripture are not covered in the way the Psalmist writes about it in his personal relationship with it? How have you dealt with these in the past? How could you deal with them in the future?
5. Ultimately, why does it matter if we trust and value Scripture like the Psalmist does? What depends on it?

OUT - Who is missing from the table? Spend 10 minutes praying for the salvation of your non-Christian friends, family and associates, ensuring you include those who live here in Leicester.

Take away challenge: If you haven't done so already who could you give a Bible or Gospel to?

The Bible | Session 2 | Understanding the Word | Acts 18: 24-28

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IN – Who is at the table? (10 minutes) If in a group, ask someone to pray for those who are absent and send them an encouraging text. Briefly catch up with each other if you haven't done so already and share how you have got on reading the Bible this week.

UP - Where is Jesus at the table? Spend 30 minutes studying Scripture which should lead you into a time of worship and seeking His presence for the remaining time you have together.

Read Acts 18:24-28

1. What do you think some of the things Priscilla and Aquila helped Apollos understand were? Do you think they referred to Old Testament scripture in this, and where?
2. Similarly, where do you think Apollos might have gone to in Old Testament Scripture to prove that Jesus is the Messiah? (if you're stuck, have a look back in Acts and see where the apostles did this in their preaching).
3. What does the example of Apollos say to us about our growth in discipleship when it comes to Scripture?
4. Similarly, how do the examples of Priscilla and Aquilla help us understand our personal calling to help others understand Scripture? How do you do this, and how can you grow in this?
5. What does this passage say to the reason why preaching is important, and how does it not speak to this in both the contexts of the church gathering and also outside the church.

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Take away challenge: If you haven't done so already who could you give a Bible or Gospel to?

The Bible | Session 3 | Divided by the Word | Matthew 22:23-33

These studies are written for small groups but can be adapted for individual use and are intended to accompany our sermon series.

IN – Who is at the table? (10 minutes) If in a group ask someone to pray for those who are absent and send them an encouraging text, briefly catch up with each other if you haven't done so already. Share a Bible passage that is important to you.

UP - Where is Jesus at the table? Spend 30 minutes studying Scripture which should lead you into a time of worship and seeking His presence for the remaining time you have together.

Read Matthew 22:23-33

1. Why do you think the Sadducees didn't think there was no resurrection to come despite Old Testament witnesses to the opposite (e.g. Daniel 12:2). What does this say to some of our difficulties in believe some of what Scripture teaches – and what might be the equivalent issues for us?
2. Why do you think that Jesus references a verse that does not directly talk about the resurrection, but rather Exodus 3:6? Why would that have had particular impact for the Sadducees as well as onlookers to this debate?
3. How do the Sadducees' handling of Scripture and Jesus' contrast? How does this speak to how we should seek to handle Scripture?
4. How does what happens in this passage speak to how we as a church should navigate contentious issues that divide people of belief? Why might this not happen as readily as it should do?
5. Jesus says that the Sadducees are in error because they do not know "the Scriptures or the power of God." How are the two sometimes the same, sometimes different, and sometimes overlap?

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Take away challenge: If you haven't done so already who could you give a Bible or Gospel to?

The Bible | Session 4 | Living Under the Word | James 1:21-25

These studies are written for small groups but can be adapted for individual use and are intended to accompany our sermon series.

Introduction

IN – Who is at the table? (10 minutes) If in a group ask someone to pray for those who are absent and send them an encouraging text. Briefly catch up with each other if you haven't done so already including sharing how you are currently studying the Bible.

UP - Where is Jesus at the table? Spend 30 minutes studying scripture which should lead you into a time of worship and seeking His presence for the remaining time you have together.

Read James 1:21-25

- 1 What are the barriers that we experience to being able to 'humbly accept the word planted in you' (verse 21) - if there were none, James wouldn't need to say this! How does doing so help us 'get rid of all moral filth and evil'?
2. In what ways is it possible to only listen to the word and not do it? How might the parable of the Sower help illuminate this? (see Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)
3. Why is Scripture described as 'the perfect law that gives freedom (verse 25)? When have you experienced this power? How about the 'blessing' promised in keeping it?
4. How does the mirror analogy that James gives help us understand what Scripture has the power to do in our lives? How might it also be a bit confusing, or an image that can be stretched too far?
5. When do you think it's hard to simply do what the Scriptures say (verse 27), and what heart issues does this expose for us to repent of?

OUT - Who is missing from the table? Spend 10 minutes praying for the salvation of your non-Christian friends, family and associates, ensuring you include those who live here in Leicester.

Take away challenge: If you haven't done so already who could you give a Bible or Gospel to?