



Week 2 | Scripture as Communion

Gospel Community Leaders Guide

Pray

As you begin, pray with your group. Pray that Scripture would ultimately serve the purpose of pointing to Jesus so that individuals in your group would know and love Him more. Pray that God would give you a passion for His word and that He would transform you through it.

Discuss

Discuss this week's sermon and the following questions with your group:

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life." John 5:39-40

- What are some ways that you (or we as a community) try to find life in the Scriptures outside of Jesus?
- What are some ways that you (or we) find life in Jesus through the Scriptures?
- What do you think is a healthy attitude towards Scripture in the Christian life?

Encourage

Encourage your group.

Scripture itself is not the point. The Bible has been described as a menu. At a restaurant, a menu describes the food, but the menu itself is not the point. Imagine going into a restaurant, reading the food descriptions in the menu, and getting so hungry that you decide to eat the menu itself. The menu points to the food, but it is not the food. In the same way, Scripture points to Jesus. The point of Scripture reading is not to know and love the Bible more, but to know and love Jesus more.

Correct theological knowledge is not the end all. It is possible to be knowledgeable about Scripture, to have correct theology, and to be inspired by Scripture without actually being transformed by Scripture. All these things are no doubt important, and they serve as a basis, but if they don't ultimately lead to transformation, something is missing. Scripture must be approached humbly and with a willingness to be changed. "Contemplative reading of Scripture is structured so that instead of gaining mastery of the text, we are mastered." -Plass & Cofield

We all meditate. "Meditation" is a concept that can make us uncomfortable sometimes, but truthfully, we all meditate every day. We over-analyze things said to us, we memorize our favorite pictures of our children, we worry, we read certain letters or emails or texts again and again. Meditation is whatever we keep coming back to. We want to refocus our lives so we keep coming back to God's word, ultimately because His word points us to Jesus.

Remind

Remind your groups of the intended rhythm of this series and see if there are any practical questions or difficulties of this rhythm:

- **Have different Spiritual practices introduced and taught on Sundays**
- **Practice them individually (three times during the week, about 15 minutes each)**
- **Discuss them in Gospel communities (twice a month)**
- **Discuss in small discipleship groups where the Spirit is bringing about growth and where we are facing difficulties as we explore these practices (twice a month)**