

CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY (C3) HOMEWORK

“Edifying the body by embracing the grace of the Spirit to live out the love of the Son in fellowship that glorifies the Father”



WARM UP

1. What is the last thing you spend more than 15 hours leaning or mastering? Was it worth it?

This question is designed to get people thinking about what they are willing to spend time to learn and master. The follow up question you could use at the end of the night is:

- If you were willing to spend 15 hours leaning _____, are you willing to spend the same amount of time leaning to use the Sword of the Spirit?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. What stood out to you most about Sunday's message?

This is wide open to get people to start talking. Try to write down questions/comments you have from the message that you can bring up with your group.

3. Read Matthew 4:1-11. We talked Sunday about the pattern a Christian can follow to become a skilled swordsman with the Word of God. The four disciplines in that pattern are read, memorize, meditate, and declare. How does the way Jesus wields the Word show that he has practiced these disciplines?

1. Read - Obviously, Jesus must have read scripture to be able to remember and recite scripture.
2. Memorize - It is safe to assume that Jesus did not have a scroll and a concordance out during this battle. So He must have had scripture memorized in order to wield it against Satan.
3. Meditate - Jesus not only had appropriate verses to response to Satan's tactics but all of the scripture He quoted was from a passage in Deuteronomy 6-8 which is all about the failure of Israel to pass the test God gave them over 40 years in the wilderness. Jesus had thought through the pattern of scripture enough to know that He was living out a representation of the testing of Israel (Spoiler alert: Jesus passed the test!)
4. Declare - Jesus did not simply have and know the Word of God. He preached it to the devil.

4. How often do you read the Word of God?

What prevents you from reading it more?

5. The Bible talks a lot about memorizing God's word. Read the following passages and write down:

- 1) How it describes the way we should relate to the Word.
- 2) What that means in your own words.
- 3) What are the benefits listed.

This question is designed to get people into the Word so have some read each passage out loud and then go over the observations as a group.

Jeremiah 15:16

1. Eat Bible!
2. Take God's word into you and digest it. Let it nourish and strengthen you from the inside out.
3. The Word becomes the source of your joy (since it reveals God) and the way of expressing that joy as well!

Psalms 119:11

1. Hide Bible in your heart!
2. This is a picture of storing or treasure God's word in the deepest part of your being.
3. Bible stored in your heart will sever the root of sin.

John 8:31-32

1. Abide in the Word of God.
2. Live within the guideline of the Bible. Live implies life. This is about having life in the Word.
3. Living in the Word makes you a disciple of Jesus. Followers of Jesus are Word-people. They will know the Truth and be set free by it.

John 15:7-11

1. Let Bible live within you!
2. We are told the bible is alive and exposes our thoughts and desires. If it lives in you, it will do that.
3. If Bible lives in you: you will get what you desire and ask for, the Father will be glorified, you will be a disciple of Christ, you will abide in Christ's love, you will have Christ's joy and your joy will be complete!

6. What prevents you from memorizing scripture?

How do the benefits above help overcome those excuses?

The benefits above should be more than enough to combat any excuses you can come up with!

CHALLENGE: Memorize Phil 4:6-8 (or another verse that helps you in the fight to see) and quote it to your group.

If people found a specific verse especially helpful when we talked about Toxic thinking, then encourage them to memorize that! Or chose a verse(s) as a group and memorize it together over the week.

7. Read Matthew 4:6 again. Why is memorizing Scripture not enough in the fight to see?

Satan knows and quotes scripture! But truth that is used deceitfully is a lie. If you don't understand the Bible, it can just as easily be a lie to you as the Truth.

What did Jesus say about the Pharisees who had large portions of scripture memorized?

8. Read Psalm 1:1-2. What does meditating mean and how do you do it?

- Meditating is thinking deeply about something over a significant period of time. Understanding what it says and why and apply that truth to your life.

- Run a passage of scripture through your mind and ask all of the questions you can think of. Then see if you can discern the answers by the power of the Spirit working on your mind. (What is being said? Why? How does that relate to me? How does this glorify God? How can I pursue my joy through this? etc)

9. Read Psalm 103:1-5. In this Psalm, the Psalmists preaches truth to his own soul! What truths does he preach to himself in his fight to see?.

- God is holy.
- Don't forget all of His goodness towards me (benefits)
- God forgives my sins!
- He heals my diseases
- He has bought back my soul from condemnation
- His *hesed* love is the highest treasure of my life (crown)
- He satisfies me!
- He renews my strength.

10. Which of the four disciplines do you struggle with the most?

This is as applicational as it gets. Encourage each other to be excellent swordsmen!

What can you change today to practice this pattern of swordsmanship in your life?