

ENCOUNTER God — in the WORD

REVIEW:

Encountering God in _____

Encountering God in _____

Story about “BIG ROCKS...”

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness – and then all these things will be added to you as well

For your reflection and response: Take some time this week to do an honest inventory of your schedule—all 168 hours in the week. Identify the “big rocks,” the things that get put in first, that receive priority, that take up space. Are there some priorities out of whack? What would it look like to build your week around your big rocks?

Bible Intake: God’s Word!

H_____ God’s Word.

Luke 11:28 (ESV) Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.

Romans 10:17 (ESV) So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- Check out: www.youversion.com www.bible.is and www.bible.iskids

R_____ God’s Word.

Matthew 4:4 (ESV) Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Revelation 1:3 (ESV) Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

Isaiah 55:10-11 (ESV) ¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out of my mouth; it shall not return empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

- Check out this week’s Life Group curriculum for ideas – ask a friend – do a Google search (be discerning!)

S_____ God’s Word.

“Here then, is the real problem of our negligence. We fail in our duty to study God’s Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or a lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy.” -R.C. Sproul

- Check out **Rick Warren’s** *Bible Study Methods; Twelve Ways You Can Unlock God’s Word*. Again, ask for help, do a search, don’t wait – act now!
- In need of some additional inspiration? Check out **Ezra 7:10, Acts 17:11-12, and 2 Timothy 4:13.**

M_____ God’s Word.

Psalms 119:111 (ESV) I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Ephesians 6:17 (ESV) and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- Check out **Matthew 4:1-11**—it’s also one of the key passages in our Life Group lesson this week!

- **Special note:** memorizing Scripture strengthens our faith, prepares us to be a witness, helps to shape the counsel/advice we give to others, and it helps shape the counsel/advice that we receive from the Holy Spirit!

M _____ on God's Word.

- **For your reflection:** if your mind is a cup of hot water, and God's Word is a teabag, what are the things you are doing or can do to let that teabag steep, to get the most "flavor" out of the teabag?

Joshua 1:7-8 (ESV) ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law the Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Psalm 1:1-3 (ESV) ¹Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ²but his delight is the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does he prospers."

- This week, check out Psalm **119:1-176!** Take 3 sections per day starting today. Read it; read it out loud so you can hear it; read it with pen and highlighter in hand, underlining or highlighting the words or phrases that jump out to you, that resonate with you, that are repeated; take some time to write and reflect on what you've read; then pick one or two verses to memorize (verse 11, 103, 105 are some of my favorites)!

A _____ God's Word.

James 1:22-25 (ESV) be doers of the word and not hearers only be not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

John 13:17 (ESV) If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

The story of Zacchaeus...

- **Truth:** like the tree that Zacchaeus climbed, practicing the spiritual disciplines put us in the _____ of Jesus!

Next Steps:

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (ESV) ²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? So run that you may obtain it. [Run to win!] ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. [text added]

- A **place** that is free from distraction where you can shut to doors to the world and open the doors to heaven.
- A **plan** that give structure, guides and focuses your time in God's Word.
- **Proper Provisions:** a good study Bible, pen, highlighter, notebook or journal, other resource books, etc.
- An appropriate **period** of time that gives you time to prepare, pray, process and ponder. (Try 15-30 min)

Questions for reflection and discussion at home and in your life group:

1. Listening to the sermon, is there a type of Bible intake that is new to you? How can you put it into practice this week?
2. Looking at the Scriptures this week, do you have an accurate view/understanding of the importance of this discipline?
 - a. What steps do you need to take to reshape your understanding and practice of Bible intake?
 - b. Who is someone who can help, encourage, and hold you accountable?
3. When it comes to hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, meditating and applying God's word, what are you doing well?
4. How, specifically, will you prioritize the intake of God's Word this week? Try something new!