



The Fellowship

“In a study many years ago, church generations were known to go through a cycle in their relationships with the Bible. Often the first generation would love the Scriptures and devour it ravenously, the second generation would see this love and assume they had it and so did everyone else in their generation so it was taken for granted, and thus neglected. By the third generation, the fruit born by a love of the Scriptures in the first generation, wasn’t seen in the second and the third generation would often dismiss the Scriptures because they mistakenly thought that their parents had devoted their lives to the Word, when in fact, the Word was neglected and untried. The fruit the third generation saw was not the fruit of their grandparents so they dismiss the Word as worthless or worse. The good news is that any generation can choose to devote themselves, through grace-driven effort, to the Word of God and experience the fruit of knowing and living in light of the God of the Universe and the Kingdom the Gospel brings to bear on this world.”

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

What is your favorite story/teaching/book of the Bible?

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 2:42-47

“42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and

many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

SCRIPTURE READING:

Acts 2:42

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;”

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

“These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Hebrews 4:12-13

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

Psalms 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.”

Romans 15:4

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

Psalms 119:97

“Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.”

Psalms 119:103

“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Watch BibleProject video on what the Bible is. What were you taught about what the Bible is and how we should approach it?
2. Why did God choose to reveal Himself through the history, struggles, and meditations of one particular people situated in one particular corner of the earth?
3. How do the diverse genres of poetry, letters, law texts, and wisdom writings complement the narrative texts and thus contribute to our overall understanding of the overarching story of the Bible?
4. What is the value in God revealing God's self through texts spread out over 1000 years and written by different authors?
5. What are the advantages or pitfalls to different traditions including different lists of writings into the Bible?
6. Does this story continue on in Christian believers today? If so, how? If not, what is fundamentally different between the story of the Bible and the story of the Church as lived out today?

**CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:**

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.