

ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE

"Obeying Scripture" | 3 APR 2022

We devote ourselves to understanding, obeying, and delighting in God's Word.

- 1. St. Augustine said the following about Lent: "You must certainly beware of just revising, not reducing, your pleasures. You can see some people searching out unusual liquors as a substitute for the usual wine. ... The result is that the observance of Lent means, not the repression of old lusts, but the occasion for new enjoyments." Have some discussion on these perspectives. What stands out to you and why?
- 2. Following the above, what sources of enjoyment or pleasure for you may not be contributing to spiritual growth and thus good fruit? Could God be showing you or inviting you into renewal that could lead to increased spiritual health and closeness with God and others? Elaborate.
- 3. What sources did you depend on for guidance in life prior to becoming a Christian? Or, what sources other than God and Scripture have you looked to for equipping in life, and how did that work for you? Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 aloud. Reread it aloud a second time. Now, compare and contrast: What benefit have you realized from being guided by Scripture as a believer?
- 4. Spend time in recognizing and thanking God for the people and experiences whereby you have learned Scripture and been equipped for every good work. How has God's word helped to equip you for the work God has for you to do?
- 5. Revisit Psalm 1 and read it aloud. What do you notice this time? How does the passage contribute to our understanding of the importance of obeying the way of Scripture for living life? According to the Psalm, what is the alternative to the way of Scripture?

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- 6. Again, the UCM value of Rooted in Scripture is, "We devote ourselves to understanding, obeying, and delighting in God's Word." Discuss the element of obedience. Have you ever known a regular and ongoing joyful obedience to Christ's teaching in Scripture? Or is your experience such that obedience in this way has been the opposite of joyful or even hurtful? Discuss toward a right and good Scriptural understanding of obedience.
- 7. Continue to pray together as it follows from the discussion that UCM would be a family of disciples making disciples who are rooted in Scripture and bearing good fruit for God's kingdom and glory always.

