



CONNECT - HOW DOES THIS TOPIC RELATE TO US?

Choose 1 or 2 questions to get your discussion started.

1. What is your experience with the Bible through the course of your life - as a child, young person, and adult?
2. Why do you think Bible illiteracy is so high in this present time?
3. Share a Bible passage with the group that is particularly significant to you and why/how it has made an impact in your life.

ENGAGE - WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH US?

Read the following passages in light of the idea of renewing your mind with scripture.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

1. What makes the Bible different from other books?
2. How does that difference influence the way that we incorporate the Bible in our lives? In other words, how do we use it differently than we use, for example, a reference manual or guidebook?
3. When have you seen Scripture used in a manner contrary to its purpose, and what was the result?
4. What is the intended goal of Scripture in our lives?

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. - Philippians 4:8-9

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. - Romans 12:1-2

1. Paul's encouragement to the Philippians is to consider whatever is "true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable." What does he mean to "think" on these things?
2. Similarly, Paul challenges the Romans to "renew their minds." What is the result when this happens?
3. How does your daily thought life reflect Paul's instructions?
4. What role can the Bible play in helping your thoughts to more readily move in that direction?

APPLY - HOW CAN THIS CHANGE OUR LIVES?

1. How can we spend more time being led by God when we have jobs, school, families, relationships, etc. that occupy much of our time and thoughts?
2. How can we integrate more Scripture into our daily lives to give us a spiritual mindset?

3. What simple step can you commit to this week to “renew your mind” through Scripture (Romans 12:2)? How can the group help you?

ACTION STEP

If you have not already begun using the daily devotional resource provided by Menlo Church, do so. If you want to use a different resource to engage Scripture, take the following steps as you engage your daily reading of the Bible:

- 1.** Begin by asking God to meet you in scripture
- 2.** Read the selected scripture with an open spirit
- 3.** Meditate: read the passage slowly, reflect upon it, listen for what God is saying to you. **4.** Choose one thought or verse to take with you through the day
- 5.** (Bonus) Memorize that verse

PRAYER

Holy God, teach us how to fix your words in our hearts and minds so that they are a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Transform our hearts so that we may commit to transforming our minds. In Jesus’s name we pray, Amen.

GOING DEEPER - FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. - Romans 8:5-8

- Paul contrasts two types of people. How are they different in their focus, and what is the outcome?

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. - Psalm 1:1-3

- What actions do those who are described as blessed not do? • What actions do they do?
- What is the result, and why do you think this might be so?

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. - Psalm 119: 9-11

- What does it mean to have “hidden your words in my heart”?
- How does this help accomplish the psalmist’s stated purpose “that I might not sin against [God]”?

Do a **S.O.A.P.** (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer) meditation on Philippians 4:8-9 this week and share the experience with your group next week.

Recommended Resources

A. Study Bibles: There are many different study Bibles available to help you more easily connect with Scripture. Go to your favorite bookseller to do a search. **B. Online:** Download The Bible App. There are a variety of daily reading plans available to help you. **C. Videos:** Go to TheBibleProject.com/explore. **D. Podcast:** Listen to The Bible Binge for an irreverent deep dive into some Scripture stories