

You Asked For It...

This week's reading: Exodus 34:5-6; Psalm 25:8; Psalm 145:5-7; Isaiah 55:8-9

Discussion Guide: April 14, 2024

CHECK UP:

Memory work: And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. -

Hebrews 10:24-25

How did your view of the end times (think essentials) impact the way you lived this past week?

OPEN:

- Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this past week? What action steps did you take?
- What texts in the Bible have you found to be the most challenging to understand or wrap your head around?
- How have you typically handled difficult texts?
 - o Have you been taught any basic Bible study principles?
 - o How did you learn to study the Bible?

READ and ASK: 2 Timothy 2:14-15; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12

- What has formed your view of the authority of scripture?
- Which of these texts stands out to you most and why?
- If ALL scripture is God breathed and useful (2 Tim 3:16), then even difficult texts have benefit to us. What are the benefits to wrestling with some of the challenging passages in the Bible?
- Many (not all) of our challenges in scripture reading can be resolved simply by using some basic interpretive practices such as A.I.M. (authors intended meaning), literary context, and a little historical background.
 - o Why is the author's intended meaning so important?
 - o What makes studying the context of a passage so important. (context = the surrounding verses, the whole book the passage is in, and the context of the entire Bible).
 - o Why is a little background important?

READ and ASK: Exodus 34:5-6; Psalm 25:8; Isaiah 55:6-9

- There are times that passages are just plain challenging (even with the best Bible study tools). In these moments, why is our posture before God so important?
 - o Which one of these passages challenges or encourages you most in your posture before God? Why?

APPLY:

- What clear truths of God keep you grounded when you are faced with difficult passages in the Bible?

- NEXT STEP: Of all we have discussed, what is one clear action step you need to take in your faith and/or Bible reading this week?

Memory Work:

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. – 2 Timothy 2:15

Next Week's Reading:

OPEN