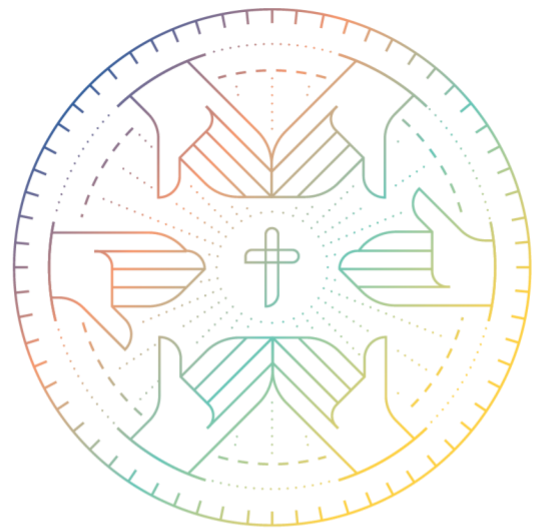


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



MEETING AGENDA

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

This week we are continuing our series, *Give Me Strength*. In this second week, we'll talk about how wisdom is found in God's Word, and how there are small, but specific, spiritual practices that God can use to grow our wisdom.

- Please don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email. It's important!

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What was the last thing you assembled that you needed to use an instruction manual?

OR

Have you ever received a letter or card that you've kept because of its emotional or sentimental value?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

(Feel free to use one or all of the following introductory questions)

Was there one idea from Pastor Levi's message that particularly stood out to you? Share that with the group.

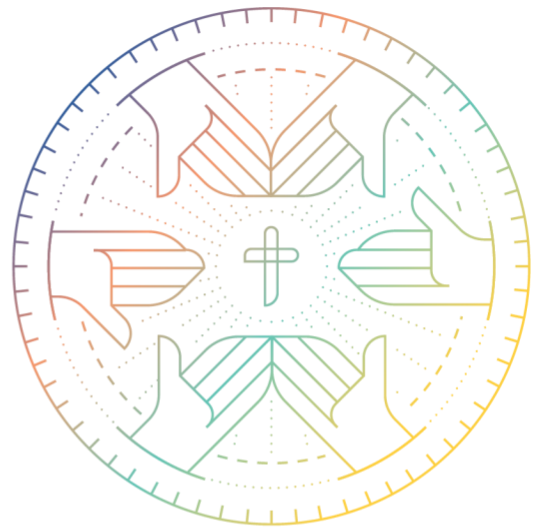
Sometimes people find the Bible to be too overwhelming or complicated for them and they give up reading it. What would be your advice to someone who feels that way?

[Host Guidance: expect answers like use a commentary, study with a friend, join a Bible study at church. Share your own experience with how you became more comfortable with God's Word and how that happened. Mention that God has promised to help us understand and apply his Word through the Holy Spirit he has given us.]

Was there a moment this week when the Scriptures came alive for you: i.e., a verse came to mind at just the moment you needed it; a verse helped you make a decision; a verse gave you wisdom that you needed in a situation? (*"Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and active..."*)

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INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. Read Psalm 1:1-3. There is beautiful imagery in this passage. What does it mean to “delight” in the Word of God? How, in your own words, would you describe the blessings promised to the one who delights in the Bible? How do you, personally, delight in God’s Word?

[Host Guidance: one way to get the conversation started might be to ask the group what they currently delight in. It could be things like watching football on TV, playing golf, doing puzzles, writing poems, knitting, or baking. Contrast their behaviors toward those things with how that behavior could be applied to the practice of delighting in Scripture.]

2. Read James 1:22-25. Hearing the Word of God without doing what it says brings about self-deception. How would you describe that deception?

[Host Guidance: when we fail to put God’s truth and commands into practice, we quickly forget or lose track of that truth in our lives. We don’t experience personal transformation because we have not acted on the truth we have received and our spiritual growth is stunted.]

3. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Is this passage practical for Christians today? Discuss practical ways we could be a “doer” of this passage.

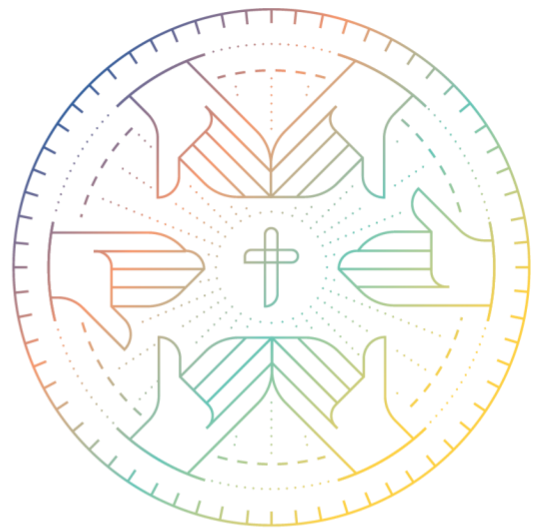
[Host Guidance: we can place Scripture around our home with wall hangings and other decorative pieces (think Hobby Lobby). We can use daily reminders of Scripture on our phones. We can use sticky pads to place Scripture on our mirrors, in our cars, at our desks. We can subscribe to daily Bible App’s like YouVersion. What other creative ideas might people share with the group?]

APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. What is one way you could increase your daily intake of God’s Word? How can your small group help you to become more consistent in your daily Bible reading?
2. Look over the following practices and discuss them as a group. Which one seems particularly helpful or intriguing to you? Which one would you be most likely to benefit from? For the next week, choose one of the following to incorporate into your spiritual habit of reading God’s Word:
 - A. Pray before you read Scripture, asking God for wisdom, insight and practical ways to apply what you read.

Group Life.

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- B. Use the practice of Scriptural Breathing. First read the Scripture verse or passage, preferably outloud, then pray specifically about what you read. Breathe in the Scripture. Breathe out a prayer. Choose small portions of Scripture at a time.
 - C. Choose a verse of Scripture to be your Verse for the Year. Choose one that will encourage you, strengthen you or guide you. Say it every day before getting out of bed. Rehearse it again in the evening before bed. Find ways to keep it in your mind like in Deut. 6:4-9.
 - D. Practice reading the Scriptures in order to hear from God. For example, whenever you read from the Bible, be sure you read until you have something distinct that you can put into practice. (James 1:22) Then talk to God about how you will be a doer of that verse, truth or command.
3. What spiritual habit or practice of Bible reading do you use that might benefit someone in your group? Share your practices with your group.

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Father God, we are grateful for your love for us and the way you transform us from the inside out to look more like Jesus. As your children, we confess our dependence on you as we desire to live out our faith with wisdom. We need you more than ever. As you reveal yourself to us in your Word, may we find strength, peace and wisdom for each day. Grow our hearts to love one another and use this group to encourage us as we go through the week. Your love gives us hope for our lives today and for all eternity. Amen.