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**ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)**

What is something you believed as a child that turned out to not be true?

OR

Is trust something that is given, or does it have to be earned?

**INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)**

Have you heard any of the new “religions” David mentioned? Which one was most surprising or new to you?

* New Atheists – No God, but like prayer, being kind, equality and generosity
* Expressive Individualism – Your feelings are the highest possible good, but any claims that Jesus is Lord, or the Bible telling us how to live would result in our inauthentic self
* Post-Modern Culture – If there is truth, doesn’t matter because we are shaped by our experiences

Did you ever find yourself inadvertently believing one of these religions or others rather than having faith in Jesus? What prompted the change towards living for Jesus?

**INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)**

**Read Matthew 23:1-14.** How is religion different than faith? Why is this distinction important?

**Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:20-21.** Whose words are written in the Bible? How does this passage say we are to use the Word in our lives?

**Read Proverbs 16:17, Proverbs 16:20, and Psalm 23:1-4.** Assign each area below a verse from this passage describing how the Bible equips us in that area:

* Teaching:
* Reproof:
* Correction:
* Training:

**APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)**

**Read Matthew 5:18 and Mark 13:31.** David stated that in all 25,000 copies of the books of the Bible, no errors occurred in the doctrine, and they all aligned on core beliefs. How does knowing that the doctrine never errs in the manuscripts help us to trust the Bible and God more?

We have established the Bible is relevant and true. Select one of the following areas to focus on this week.

* Teaching (Word) – Shows me what I need
* Reproof (Warning) – Shows me what I don’t need
* Correction (Way) – Shows me where I need to go
* Training (Wisdom) – Shows me how to get there

**Deuteronomy 32:4** says, “He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright, and just is He.” This verse shows God is trustworthy. Make a list of the attributes of God and spend a few moments in group prayer praising Him for who He is.

***PRAYER (10 MINUTES)***

*Dear Father, thank you for speaking to us through your Word and your Spirit. We want to trust you more and show the world that you are alive, and your Word is relevant to each of us. Please help us to learn and grow with you this week as we stand firm on your Truth. In Your Holy Name, Amen.*

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