

Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

The sermon title from Sunday was, "Pay Attention." Looking back on your life, what's one thing you wish you had paid more attention to?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

What most stood out to you from Pastor David's message?

Read Matt. 17:1-9. Toward the end of his life, Peter points back to his experience on the mountain when Jesus was transfigured before him and the other two disciples (Matt. 17, Mark 9, Luke 9) as a proof of Jesus' divinity. How did that experience affect the rest of Peter's life and how does he want his experience to affect us today?

Remember, Peter chose to be crucified (upside down) rather than change even a single word of his testimony about Jesus.

INTO THE WORD (20 MINUTES)

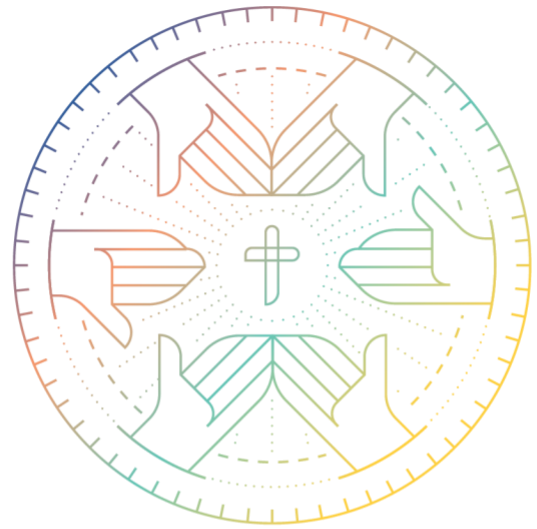
Read 2 Peter 1:12-21. What are the four reasons we can trust Scripture as God's Word? Which one of the four is the most convincing to you, and why?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Psalm 119:9. How should we interact with the Bible based on these passages? What roles should it play in our life?

Read Matthew 19:4-5. Do we believe the Old Testament is also inspired by God and authoritative for us? What does it mean to us that Jesus quoted the Old Testament repeatedly throughout the Gospels (Luke 24:25, John 5:45-47)?

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Read Psalm 19:7-9 and Hebrews 4:12. Theologians refer to the doctrine of *animation* with regard to the Bible, as seen in these two passages. The doctrine of animation stresses the powerful and life-changing activity of the Scripture. Unlike any other book known to man, the Bible possesses a living quality that stems from its divine origin as the unique God-breathed book.

How have you experienced the Bible as "animated"?

Read Romans 15:4. What is the connection between the Bible and us experiencing the hope of Jesus?

APPLICATION (15 MINUTES)

Was there a takeaway from David's message that you are putting into practice this week?

Do you trust God's Word to be inspired, authoritative and trustworthy? If so, what behavior or practice in your life demonstrates that trust?

How can a person "pay attention" to the written Word of God?

Given all the benefits of reading God's Word we've discussed, how might your upcoming week be changed if you read the Scriptures every day?

The Bible is a safe harbor- a fair haven (Acts 27:8), for every one of us. Stay close to it and it will guide you safely through life.

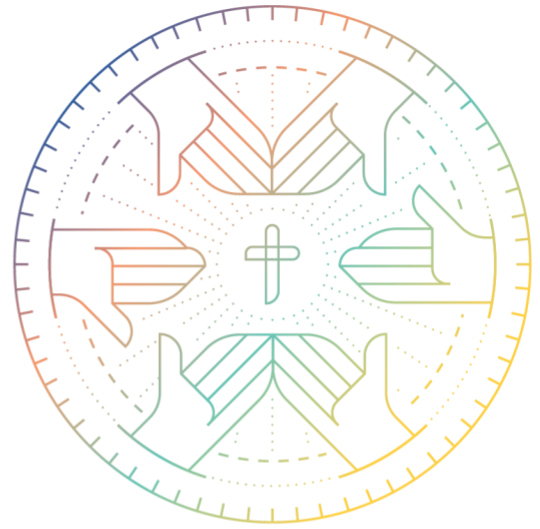
DAILY THIS WEEK

Commit to spending time each day, reading God's Word. Try practicing one of these four ways to interact with God's Word:

- Reading- devotional reading allows us to grasp the big picture of the Biblical story by reading large chunks of Scripture in one sitting.
- Study- the systematic dissection of Scripture through a process of observation, interpretation, and application.
- Meditation- is the process by which we allow Scripture to dissect us as we let God's word soak into our imaginations. It is not a process of emptying the mind but filling it with God's truth.

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- Memorization- enables the Word to become a living and active part of our lives, as we grow closer to God and internalize his truth.

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Our Savior and Lord Jesus, thank you for the Bible. For us who believe, it is the very Words of God. It inspires us, corrects us, leads us, and teaches us. May we never fail to allow it to have its' rightful place in our hearts. In Jesus' name, Amen.