



## Week Six

### Opening Praying

God, thank you for your interest and desire in connecting with us. Help us to remain open to you and to hear from you in meaningful ways. Amen.

### Talk It Over

The goal of this whole series has been that we encounter God through the Bible. Last week, we talked about an approach to Bible study called SOAP — which stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. This week we looked at a method to help us understand or interpret what we read in the Bible.

- How daunting or natural is the idea of understanding or interpreting the Bible to you?
  - Have these feelings evolved throughout the seasons?
  - What previous lessons, learnings, or methods have you used to help you derive meaning from the Bible?
- Tell us about a time you misinterpreted the Bible or you saw someone misinterpret the Bible.
- What are some dangers or troubles that come from misinterpreting the Bible?

### Read Series Theme Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

This week we looked at the fact that deriving meaning from a passage of scripture requires us to ask the right questions. In fact, the big idea is just that: To dig into a Bible passage, I must learn to ask the right questions.

- Tell us about someone who is good at asking good questions. (We aren't talking strictly about asking good questions about the Bible here.) What sorts of notable characteristics does this person exhibit, bring to the table, demonstrate, and model?
- Tell us about a time you gained a better understanding of a Bible passage, and in turn, found something that helped you on your spiritual journey.

**This week we looked at four questions to ask when reading scripture. As we look through the list below, feel free to chime in at any point to share what comes to mind or to discuss these questions:**

- Which of these steps comes most naturally to you?
- Which of these steps sounds the most difficult to you?
- Has anyone ever modeled this question for you before?

### 1. Observation: What does it say?

Follow up questions based on this big question: Who's this passage talking about? Who are the people in the passage? What is being said about these people?

### 2. Interpretation: What does it mean?

(Continued on next page.)

Follow up questions based on this big question: Why is this a big deal of this passage? What is clearly being said? What was the original author saying and hoping to understand? What message would the original audience hear and understand?

### **3. Correlation Questions: What do other verses say about it?**

Follow up questions based on this big question: Is the content addressed in this passage addressed somewhere else in scripture? Does the Bible say anything else about this same thing? Are there any other passages about the people mentioned in the passage? *We never base a belief, a doctrine, or a conviction on a single verse of scripture. The best commentary on the scripture is scripture.*

### **4. Application Questions: What will I do about it?**

Follow up questions based on this big question: How can I incorporate these characteristics into my life? Is there an area in my life in which God is calling me to be more “blank”? Which of these am I going to work on in my life this week? Which one am I the weakest on?

### **Read Philippians 2:19-22, 25- 30 (NIV)**

#### **- What does this passage of the Bible say?**

We have our two guys: Timothy and Epaphroditus. They are leaders in the church and people that Paul cherishes and holds in very high regard.

#### **- What does it mean?**

Paul is bragging on these two young servant leaders. Paul tells us some specific things he loves about each of them, and in turn, Paul helps us to understand key characteristics to value, look for, and model in leadership: A godly leader is caring, consistent, considerate, and courageous.

#### **- What do other Bible verses say about this topic?**

- Share anything else you know about either Timothy and Epaphroditus.
- Share what we know the Bible says elsewhere about caring, consistent, considerate, or courageous.
- Does the take away of this passage fit what we believe the Bible teaches us elsewhere? Why or why not?

#### **- How can I apply this content?**

- Based on what we just read and discussed together, what challenges in your life come to mind?
- In what ways have you fallen short in this area? In what ways have you been hurt by someone else falling short in this area?
- How can you grow to be more like the type of leader Paul references in this passage?
- What is a specific step of application you can take with this content in mind?

### **Challenge One / Homework:**

If you haven't done so, consider committing to the summer scripture reading plan we heard about this week at church. The plan was given to you in your program and can also be found on the EastLake Church app which is accessible on iPhone and Androids.

### **Challenge Two / Homework:**

When you read your Bible this week or bump up against scripture this week, intentionally implement these four key questions.

### **Closing Prayer**

God, we want to encounter you. Help us to get to know you and what you have for us through your Bible more and more. We want to hear from you. Amen.