

## Monday Night Discipleship 2.1a

- I. **What is R.E.A.P.?** R.E.A.P. is a method of studying the Bible together to prepare for a group discussion. We highly encourage everyone to keep an ongoing journal and bring it to Monday nights, Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, and any Bible study to engage well in our discussions together.
- A. R.E.A.P.
1. Through **Reading**, people can circle and journal what they found noteworthy in each day's reading.
  2. Through **Examining**, people can answer three major questions to prepare for discussion (What does this text teach us about God? What does this text teach us about humanity? What does this text teach us about Jesus?).
  3. Through **Asking**, people can journal one or more significant questions they have about the text (Questions about events, people, places, situations, etc.) The goal is not to find answers to these questions themselves. Rather, the goal of asking significant questions is to think critically about the text and to bring thoughtful questions to pastors and teachers.
  4. Through **Prayer**, people can take a moment to pray to God concerning things they read, examined, and asked.
- B. **Why do we REAP?** We believe that this method is helpful in reading God's Word at every level. From beginners to advanced readers, we know that the Bible is infallible (error-free) and God's revelation of Himself. We REAP to learn more about God, who He is and what He's done; and to know Him personally as Savior.
- C. **How do I use REAP?**
1. Goal: Our purpose is not to collect information, trivia, or self-help tips, but to know and love God.
  2. REAP the passage before Sunday's worship service, before the Wednesday night Bible Study, or before your Sunday School class. Don't allow the sermon or the Bible study to be the first time you face the text. Marinate in the text before we gather.
  3. What do I do with my questions in the Ask section?
    - a) The big/main questions of interpretation should be answered by the sermon and preceding Bible study. If there are significant questions about how to understand the text after the sermon, we would encourage you to email me or Pastor Matt.
    - b) Join a growth group so that you can discuss the questions and how we should live out the applications of the text.

D. REAP Ephesians 4:1-16

1. Read aloud together
2. Explain by answering the three questions: What does this passage teach us about \_\_\_\_\_?
  - a) God: God has called us (1); loving and gracious (1); God desires His church to imitate Him, humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love (2); God has given His Spirit to believers and has brought believers peace (3); God is one (4,6); God is the only Lord (5); there is no other God (5); Father of all, supreme (6); sovereign (6); God is the giver of grace (7); God has a plan (8, 10); God saved captives (8); God willed that Christ ascend and descend (9-10); God has given believers in His church gifts to be His body, God is organized (11); God is building up His church, unity is plan (12-16); God blesses believers with His Spirit to be His church (12-16);
  - b) Man: Paul was a prisoner of the Lord (1); believers are enabled by God's grace to imitate Him; humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love (2); believers are called to unity in Christ (3); believers are enabled by God to grow in Christlikeness (2-3); believers belong to the Body of Christ (4); believers have one hope (4); believers have one call (4); believers have one Spirit (4); believers have one Lord, believers have one faith, and one baptism (4); believers are baptized into His Church (5); our faith is in Christ alone (5); man is subject to God (6); believers are recipients of the gift of God's grace through Christ (7); believers received God's gift (8); believers are equipped to participate in serving His church (12-16); all believers have a part to play in His church (12-16)
  - c) Christ: Jesus is Lord (1); Christ is perfect in humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love (2); the Spirit that brings peace in His church is of God (3); Jesus's mission is carried out through His body of believers (4); Christ is our one hope (4); Christ is the reason why believers are baptized, confessing oneness with Him (5); Christ is present with all believers through His Spirit (6); He is the gift of grace, grace has come through Christ (7); Christ is Christ ascend and descend (9-10); Christ is the head of His church (12-16); He holds everything together (12-16); Christ is our goal, believers are to grow into Christlikeness (12-16)

3. Ask- What question/s would help you understand the text more fully?
  - a) Why do certain verses divide the way they do?
  - b) What does it mean that Jesus descended in the lower regions?
4. Pray- Using some of your observations and questions, write out a prayer to God. (pray aloud as an example)

## II. Purpose and Mission

### A. What is the gospel?

1. The gospel is God's story of His grace to a lost and dying world. It is the story of humanity's sinful helplessness, and God's powerful love.
2. (See below for 5-fold gospel story)

### B. Who needs the gospel? Explain your answer.

1. Non-Christians need the gospel in order to become Christian. It is the power of the gospel, through the teaching of the Word of God, that sinners recognize their sin and their need for Jesus.
2. Christians need the gospel to sustain them in their walk. They need to be reminded of their sin, and their ongoing repentance. Through continual immersion in the gospel, Christians are sanctified (transformed daily into Christlikeness) more and more, day by day, until their final breath.
3. The mission field needs the gospel. The Bible teaches again and again that the gospel is meant for everyone from all nations. Christians have been commissioned to tell everyone to the ends of the earth, the good news that Jesus and His grace is available to all.

### C. Why should our teaching always connect to the gospel?

1. From the pulpit, to the classroom, to the home Bible study, our teaching should always connect to the gospel because it is only in the gospel that Christians can be nourished, and non-Christians can be brought to Christ. Teaching the Bible in such a way that is disconnected from the gospel message would be to ultimately miscommunicate its message because each section of the Bible is meant to bring us to the gospel message, God's story.

III. **Five-fold Gospel Story:** The Gospel is God's story. We can break it up into five sections: 1) Creation, 2) Sin, 3) Promise, 4) Jesus, and 5) the Church.

1. **What is the breakdown?**

- a. **Creation:** In the very beginning, nothing existed except God. God is Holy, He was never created, and He is love. Out of the overflow of His love, God created everything, including the first man and first woman, Adam and Eve. They were created to know and enjoy God's perfect love forever by trusting God's goodness, and obeying His word of instruction. In this very good beginning, Adam and Eve enjoyed a right relationship with God.
- b. **Sin:** But instead of loving God, instead of trusting and obeying Him; they doubted God's goodness and disobeyed His good word. This is called sin, and this is what broke the good relationship between God and humanity. Sin both enslaves humanity, and makes us guilty before God. On their own, there was nothing that man could ever do to make their relationship with God right again.
- c. **Promise:** God made a promise to Adam and Eve that one of their descendants would make a way that would rescue them from their sin. For many many years, humanity long awaited their hero to arrive.
- d. **Jesus:** The hero of God's story is Jesus. Jesus, who is fully man, and fully God, came and took the punishment humanity deserved for their sin and died in their place. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead which displayed His power over death and His power to give new life. This new life is for anyone who repents and believes in Him, and they will be in right relationship with Him forever.
- e. **The Church:** After Jesus resurrected from the dead, he spent 40 days instructing His followers about His plan to spread the good news, the gospel. First, He was going to give them His Spirit. Secondly, He gave them a mission. And thirdly, He gave them another promise. His Spirit was given, the church was born, the mission began and His promise was fulfilled. Today, *anyone* that repents and believes in Jesus is added to the church, God's family, and shares in the mission to spread the gospel to all peoples of the earth; so that they too will believe in Jesus and be in right relationship before God.

2. **How do I use it?**

- a. Study and outline the five-fold gospel presentation on another sheet of paper. The goal is to commit this to memory. Perhaps a bulleted list, or a skeletal outline, would be helpful. Others might prefer writing out the five-fold gospel presentation several times to commit it to memory.
- b. Practice sharing the five-fold gospel presentation in order to sharpen your delivery skills. Practicing in front of the mirror, or recording yourself sharing the presentation, will allow you to see and self-assess your delivery. When you're ready, sharing it with others will also allow you to see if you covered the main points and it will allow others to give other helpful feedback.