

Monday Night Discipleship (3rd night)

- I. October 2022: Ch. 1 Something's Missing
 - A. What is the gospel?
 1. Exercise: write a definition/description (individual 3 mins)
 2. Share with everyone
 - B. The Ontological Divide:
 1. Ppt

- II. **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. REAP Ephesians 3:1-13
 1. Read aloud together
 2. Explain by answering the three questions: What does this passage teach us about _____?
 - a) God: forgiving (2); gracious (2, 7), gives grace given to ministers of the gospel (2); God reveals mysteries (3); God is Holy Spirit (5); Holy Spirit reveals Jesus (5); God's promise is for all (6); God chooses his servants (7); God created all things (9); this was God's plan (9); God uses His church to reveal Jesus to all (10); God's eternal purpose was accomplished in Christ (11); God's plan that we experience glorying in Him (13);

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- b) Man: faithful men are prisoners of Jesus Christ for the sake of others (1); faithful people share gospel (2); man seeks knowing God through reading His Word (4); faithful people can communicate the mystery of Jesus to others (4); man has now been revealed Christ (5); Gentiles and Jews are both heirs, members of the Body of Christ (6); believers are given power through the Holy Spirit, its from God (7); faithful men evidence the humility of Christ (8); Christ is revealed for all to see (9); the people of God (His church) are to make Christ known to others (10); man understands God's purpose through Christ (11); we are free to approach God because of His love displayed in Christ (12); the faithful will experience tribulations/suffering, but will experience the glory of God, should not loose heart (13);
- c) Christ: Master of those who follow him (1); Jesus is God's grace revealed (2); He is the mystery revealed (3, 4); Christ is now revealed to man today (5); the promise in Christ was made through the gospel (6); He is the gift of grace (7); boundless (8); Christ is revealed for all to see (9); Jesus completed God's work (11); in Christ believers have boldness and access to God through faith in Him (12);

3. Ask- Why wasn't this mystery revealed earlier in other generations (5)?

4. Pray-

D. REAP Ephesians 3:15-29

1. Read aloud together

2. Explain by answering the three questions: What does this passage teach us about _____?

a) God:

b) Man:

c) Christ:

3. Ask-

4. Pray

E. 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?

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- 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.

III. Discuss text: Chapter 1: Something's Missing

A. The author addresses three common concerns of small group studies. **What are they and how are they problematic?** (pp. 3-4)

1. **Group is not outwardly focused.**

- a) **Problem**- turned inward; little desire to engage with non-believers, make an impact outside the church walls, serving others; apathy/disinterest to the great commission
- b) **Unhelpful “solutions”**- Too much Bible study, get them in the field

2. **Group doesn't know much about the Bible.**

- a) **Problem**- lacks a basic understanding of reading/understanding the Bible, lacks a Christian worldview, lots of church activity but little Bible knowledge and spiritual growth
- b) **Unhelpful “solutions”**- Ditch fellowship and replace with academic rigor

3. **Group discussions seem shallow.**

- a) **Problem**- Lots of talking, lots of opinion sharing, “but no resolution on what the Bible means and how it applies.”¹
- b) **Unhelpful “solutions”**- Stop trying to interpret and let the pastor do all the interpreting. Replace time learning how to interpret with fellowshiping with each other

B. **How are these unhelpful “solutions” problematic?**

1. There isn't a one size fits all answer for small group discipleship. **Oftentimes, a canned solution without thoughtful assessment does more damage to the group**

C. The author makes an argument that the message matters more than the method.

What are some examples of this argument?

1. Children's Sunday School
 - a) “Sometimes, I feel like all we're tellin these kids is share their toys and obey mom and dad.”²

¹ Wax, 5.

² Wax, 8.

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- b) “The goal is having a church full of nice kids.”³
 2. Youth/student ministry
 - a) 12 years of “do this”, “do that”, and moving to “Don’t do this, that, don’t drink/do drugs/or have sex”⁴
 3. Adult groups
 - a) “Tired of being the perpetual cheerleader for life as it currently is.”⁵ **What does he mean by this?**
 - (1) Being more centered on topics the group considers most needed.
- D. **How does the author define depth?**
1. An understanding of the gospel that leads us **to know and love God even more.**
 2. How: bringing it back to the gospel message.
 - a) Leads to worship and exultation of God
 3. Reminder: Our purpose is not to collect information, trivia, or self-help tips, but to know and love God.
- E. **What are some dangers of mistaking information for depth? Why?**
1. “It doesn’t matter what the information is, as long as it’s new, interesting, and makes everyone feel smarter.”⁶
 2. **Because the Goal is simply more knowledge**
 3. **Why is it dangerous?**
 - a) “Once you begin to think ‘depth’ means ‘more knowledge’ you are on track to produce an elitist class of people who view the Bible as their hobby.”⁷
- F. **What are some dangers of mistaking application for depth? Why?**
1. Places us at the center of the text
 2. **Why is it dangerous?** The Bible isn’t first and foremost about us. It’s ultimately about God.
- G. **What should our goal of studying the Bible be individually? ...collectively?**
1. **We study to know more about God in order that we might know Him more; that we may be transformed by His love in order to reach the world around us to know Him.**

³ Wax, 8.

⁴ Wax, 8.

⁵ Wax, 9.

⁶ Wax, 11.

⁷ Wax, 12-13.

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IV. Some Concluding Thoughts:

- A. What does this chapter mean for the student? Students should hunger for rich and meaningful study together that leads them to glory in the gospel.
- B. What does this chapter mean for the teacher? Teachers must aim at, and become more and more equipped to, share the gospel in every lesson. The metrics of a faithful Bible study should be their time spent growing in their worship of God through the study of the Bible.
- C. What does this chapter mean for the church? The church must make the main thing the main thing and guard it. The gospel message should always be our goal, our message, and our metric for faithful Bible study.