

## The Why Behind the What: Devotions

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **The Why Behind the What**
- In this series we will endeavor to see the Why behind the What with spiritual disciplines. (that is, to awaken faith in spiritual disciplines!)
  - Spiritual disciplines are the way to abundant life in Christ, so why do so many believers in Jesus have such trouble staying on track?
  - Let's get past the "religious" Whys and find the real God things that are here!
- **Devotions/Bible Reading (today's What)**
- Regular/Daily Devotional Time/Bible Reading is very important!
  - Even have trouble keeping up on your Bible reading?
    - That's just crazy, but we all seem to end up there sometimes!!!
- Pastor Mike's process regarding trusting the Bible.
  - I started my faith walk by quoting Scripture to God in prayer.
    - But at that time I still wasn't sure if I could trust the Bible.
  - Then I chose to believe the Bible as the Holy, inspired, inerrant Word of God.
    - That choice made the top 3 faith moments in my life!
- "Wrong" ways to read the Bible.
  - 1) As a judge of the Scriptures. **James 4:11**
    - Do not judge the Word, obey the Word!
    - If you expect the Bible to be nothing special it will appear that way to you.
  - 2) To prove your point.
    - Seek truth, not to win an argument.
    - The better you are at arguing, the more likely that you are wrong.
    - The better you are at seeking truth, the more likely you are to find it.
  - 3) Out of obligation but without faith or expectancy.
    - You can end up studying Bible trivia rather than finding the life changing, world changing, truths of God. Yuck.
- The right way to read the Bible.
  - As the Holy, Inspired, Inerrant, Word of God.
    - Be prepared to obey the Word. Then your life will change! **Matthew 7:24-27**
- So, "Why" read your Bible?
  - 1) So that you will see the truth and not be deceived by false teachers. **Acts 17:10-12**
  - 2) To help yourself and others "Rise Up." **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
  - 3) To access the power of God. **Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17-18**
    - Remember how I quoted the Bible in my first prayer? That's this.
    - This includes prophetic words and other gifts of the Spirit.
      - But, stay true to the Bible so you don't get weird!!
  - 4) So you don't stagnate in your life with God.
    - The time will come when devotions feed you more than church does.
      - Peter Haas, "adults feed themselves."
    - That's when you need to shift more to serving than being served.
      - New believers come to church empty to fill up.
      - Mature believers come to church full to pour out.
    - How do they get full? Devotions, prayer, and Bible reading.
      - **1 Corinthians 14:26.** Bring something. A smile. Some faith. Love. Bring it!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!