

HAMPTON ROADS CAMPUS

WINTER BREAK QUIET TIMES

2013

BIBLE STUDY

DAY 1: ACTS 17: 10-12; PSALM 119: 97

1. Why do you think the Bereans were eager to hear/read God's words?
2. Do you have the same heart and attitude towards the scriptures as the Bereans?
3. What would it look like for you to "receive the message with great **eagerness** and **examined** the Scriptures?

PRACTICAL: Choose a place and time in which you can read your bible **daily** during this break. Write it down. Incorporate your answers to question three in you daily time with God.

DAY 2: TIMOTHY 3: 10-16; COLOSSIANS 3: 16

1. Are you rich in your knowledge of the scriptures? The scriptures make us "wise" for salvation. It's used to train, rebuke, correct, and teach us. Every time we read our bible, we need to make sure that we are looking to be trained in some way, rebuked, corrected, or taught. When you are finished having a quiet time, do you always leave knowing exactly what you have been trained in, rebuked for, corrected in, or taught?
2. If not, how can you make sure that you are using the scriptures in the way in which God has determined they should be used?

PRACTICAL: After every quiet time, write down what training, rebuke, correction, or **new** teaching you have received that day. Develop a conviction to not aimlessly. Decide to always leave even more "equipped for every good work".

DAY 3: JAMES 1: 22-25; 1 JOHN 5: 1-3; JOSHUA 1: 8

1. Loving God is obeying his commands. Do you read your bible with intentions to obey whatever the scriptures calls you to?
2. How often do you read your bible and put into practice what you read ("do what it says" - James)? When was the last you did that?

PRACTICAL: From what you were taught, corrected, rebuked, or trained in during your quiet time. Write down one thing you are going to do that day to put into practice what you have been taught. Do this daily.

DAY 4: PSALM 119: 105; ROMANS 15: 4

1. Are the scriptures guiding your life? Are you going to the bible to help you make important decisions? For encouragement? To be strengthened?

2. Do you allow the scriptures to have authority in all areas of your life? In which areas are you NOT being led or guided by scriptures? How can you change that?

PRACTICAL: Choose an area of your life in which you are not allowing God's words to guide you through. Find scriptures on the area or subject and do what it says. You may also ask brothers and sisters who are spiritually mature for more direction.

DAY 5: LUKE 4: 14-30

Our hometowns can be the hardest place to proclaim the message of what God has done in our lives. It's where people know our past; they know what we've done and who we've been. They have our old selves ingrained in their minds. Although we know we are new, frustration and sin often comes when these people expect us to act as we used to, so we give in to their expectations. Even our family can be the worst of these critics.

In verse 14, it says Jesus returned filled with the Holy Spirit. He had just come back from fasting for 40 days in the dessert. He was able to prepare before coming home with lots of prayer and personal time with God.

- When was the last time you fasted before returning home?
- Why would this be helpful for you personally?
- What would you need to fast for before returning home?

In verses 17-21 the first thing Jesus does when he returns home is tell all of the people who he grew up with about God, and how God defines his life. Jesus Probably new his town would reject him; however he didn't let this knowledge create fear of still speaking the truth.

- Have you been talking to your old friends or your family about what God has done in your life?
- Is there anyone you have given up reaching out to?
- Is there anyone you still haven't reached out to? Why?

All is going well for Jesus and he is getting to talk all about God while gaining respect from his people, until verse 22 when people started saying "Isn't this Joseph's son?" They were in awe of what he was saying, until they remembered that he came from Joseph, until they remembered his past. For us, it's the youth group we used to be so "spiritual" in, the person we used to have a relationship with, the parties we went to, the way we treated others.

Read **Philippians 2:15-16**. We can't forget what God has done! We are new, shining like stars! Cling to the truth of the word.

In verses 23-27 Jesus calls out the fact that despite what he is telling his people they won't listen because of his past. What he has to say is important, but they won't get past what they have already seen to hear what he is saying now.

- Do you let the fear of what old friends or family will say stop you from speaking the truth? What about the fear that you won't be able to come up with something to say?
- Do you doubt the power God has given you?

- Does Jesus seem to be afraid?

Verses 28-30 depict Jesus' reaction. These people were so angry with Jesus for calling him out! They tried to throw him off of a cliff for goodness sakes. But Jesus simply walks away. I imagine the people staring at him as he walks forward, kind of like one of those scenes in a movie when the seemingly less weak character finally stands up to the bullies.

- How do you let what people say about your relationship with God affect you?
- Should how people respond to the new you stop you from speaking about God?
- How can you respond more like Jesus does?

Being at home is hard. We are faced with new challenges and Satan attacks us at our weak points, trying to make us built up a false sense of protection that prevents us from loving and sharing what God has done in our lives.

PRACTICAL: Today share your new life with a friend or family member. Text another disciple before, and after so that they can pray for you, then rejoice and talk about how it went. Start making this a habit as you are home!

FELLOWSHIP

DAY 6: HEBREWS 10:19-39

Verse 24 and 25 talk about who we should continue to encourage each other and not give up meeting together.

How has it been with staying in touch with the people in the campus ministry? How has it been with meeting with the people in the church you go to at home? When we make the decision to stop meeting with the body, Satan can get a foothold in our life and tempt us.

We must remember what verses 34 through 35 say, we go through persecution and endure hard times joyfully because we know that this life is temporary and that we have heaven waiting for us. Whether it is hard to resist the temptations of old friends at home or even parents; we need to make sure that we hold onto our convictions and remember that we have “better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.”

1. How has it been with staying connected to the body?

PRACTICAL: If it hasn't been good get connected right now, do not wait till a service, and call someone up either from the campus ministry or at your home church! Consider how you can spur someone on and encourage someone, call someone up today and tell them something that they are really good at!

DAY 7: HEBREWS 10:19-25

1. According to the scripture, what makes it possible to have this "full assurance of faith"?

2. What would it look like for you to have this "full assurance of faith"?

3. Why should you HOLD FAST to the confession of our hope without wavering?

4. Why would it be hard to HOLD FAST in hope if God did not follow through on his promises?
-have you been holding fast like you should

5. Where do you see an example of Jesus in this Passage? (vs. 24-25)

6. What does it mean to spur one another on?

7. Why do you think God wants you to hear this?

8. Why do you think it is important to meet with people, and encourage them?

PRACTICAL--Encourage a brother/sister with the good news on how God has been faithful in your life recently! Then ask them to share how God has been faithful to them as well!

PRAYER

DAY 8: JAMES 1:2-8

1. What do you doubt can happen with your character, the ministry, your family, and anything in general.
- 2.
2. Why would anyone who doubts “not expect to receive anything from the Lord”?
3. What might derail your plans to pray and not doubt?

PRACTICAL: Write down at least 2 things/events that you doubt will happen, and pray for the next week expecting it will happen.

DAY 9: JAMES 5:13-20

1. What don't you pray about?
2. Do you pray from faith?

PRACTICAL: Make a list of people you want to pray for and spend 20 minutes pray through your list today. Then call or text them to encourage them.

DAY 10: MARK 14:35-36

1. What do you do when you feel trapped?
2. How vulnerable do you get in your prayer life?

PRACTICAL: Pray a vulnerable prayer today, and anything that is on your heart, because that is what Jesus did at his lowest point.

EVANGELISM

DAY 11: JOHN 4: 1-42

1. How were you like the Samaritan woman before you were baptized?
2. Why was she so eager to share about Jesus?
3. What are some things that could prevent you from spreading the good news of Jesus? (i.e. fear of rejection, your reputation, not knowing what to say, etc.)
4. What is the harvest that Jesus describes in verse 34?
5. Are you still faithful that the harvest is indeed plentiful?
6. What are some things that have been revealed to you about yourself that you did not know before becoming a disciple?

PRACTICAL: Write down your conversion story. As you share today, share some of your own life with others. Be excited about the transformation Jesus has done in you!

DAY 12: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21

1. What does it mean to persuade someone?
2. Do you really live like you are “out of your mind” for God?
3. Do the people around you know that you are a Christian? Or do they know that you go to church and talk about God?
4. Are you living for God because he died for you through Christ, or are you living for yourself?
5. In what ways can you view people from a worldly perspective that prevents you from sharing the gospel with them?
6. What is the message of reconciliation? Why should that COMPEL you to share?
7. What would it look like to be Christ’s AMBASSADOR?

PRACTICAL: Go out and find 3 people very much unlike yourself and share with them what it means to be reconciled to God.

DAY 13: ACTS 3

1. What was the response from the crowd after the man was healed?
2. What was Peter’s response to the attention that he received?
3. What is your response when you accomplish good things in your life? Compare that to how Peter responded.
4. What did Peter accuse the crowd of doing? What things do you think could have held Peter back?
5. How was what Peter did different than an invitation to church?
6. What do you think can be the benefit of calling people out on sin and telling the truth, in love, verses a simple invitation?

PRACTICAL: Go out and emulate the 1st century church and preach the word. Don’t simply invite people to church or to an event. Share with three people and tell them that Jesus was handed over to sinners and crucified for your sins and even their sins.

DAY 14: ACTS 4:1-22

1. Why were Peter and John seized? How do you think they felt?
2. What did Peter do when he was before the rulers, elders and the teachers of the law? (It would be the equivalent of us today stand before the President and Congress.)
3. In v. 13 it says that the rulers and teachers of the law were astonished at the courage of Peter and John. Would anyone be astonished at your courage when you preach the word why or why not?
4. Do you feel that because you may be young or ordinary that you can't do great things for God? How is this disputed by the text?
5. When was the last time you stood before someone that was important or in authority and had an opportunity to take a bold stand for God? What did you do? How did you feel?
6. Peter and John were told to do something that was against God will, what was there response?
7. What are three benefits of doing God's will over men's will?

PRACTICAL: Let's go out and please God today and not men. Make a list of three people who scare you. Then call them or go to them and preach the good news about Jesus Christ! No invitations but preaching the gospel!!

CONFESSION

DAY 15: WHAT DO WE CONFESS?

LUKE 8:16-17

1. What is the purpose of a lamp?
2. Will you be able to hide your sin forever? What is hidden when light shines on it?
3. Therefore, **what** should we confess?

MARK 7:20-23

1. Where does sin come from?
 - Therefore, it is so important that we are confessing our hearts and taking responsibility for our sin.*
 - What sin in this list sticks out for you that you have struggled with lately? What about from other sin lists? -Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:3-11, 2 Timothy 3:1-5

HEBREWS 4:12-13

1. What judges us?
2. What does the word of God judge?
 - It judges our thoughts and attitudes! We need to confess not only our sin and temptations, but also our hearts! Our thoughts and attitudes too.*
3. What holds you back from confessing your thoughts and attitudes?
4. What is hidden from God's sight?
5. What is uncovered and laid bare before God?
6. If we see that all these things are going to be judged, then what should our response be?
7. Therefore, what should we confess?
8. Why should we confess everything?
 - Because in the end we have to give an account to God and we will be judged for everything.*

PRACTICAL:

Spend an hour today journaling about your sin. Confessing your sin to God. Write down anything and everything you can think of. Be open about your heart, about your sin, temptations, thoughts, attitudes, etc. Write everything down. Then call a disciple and pray together on the phone.

DAY 16: HOW DO WE CONFESS?

READ LUKE 7:36-52

1. Who are the people in this passage?

2. How did the Simon, the Pharisee respond to Jesus?

3. What are some adjectives that you could use to describe Simon?

4. How did the sinful woman respond to Jesus? What did she do?

5. What are some adjectives that you could use to describe the sinful woman?

- What wouldn't this woman be willing to confess?

-By letting down her hair she was willing to be stoned (in the culture at the time, the only time it was acceptable for a woman to let down her hair when she was with her husband in their home, because letting down your hair was a sign of intimacy). Therefore, *she was willing to die to be open and vulnerable with Jesus. There is nothing that she would not be willing to confess.*

6. What was the outcome for this woman?

-She had faith that God was going to forgive her sins. We have to have faith that when we confess our sins and are vulnerable with God that he will listen to us and forgive us.

READ 2 SAMUEL 12:1-14 for an example of how we should **not** approach confession.

1. What was David's sin?

2. Was he quick to confess his sin?

3. Was he open and vulnerable and completely transparent about his sin like the sinful woman was in the last passage?

4. What were the consequences of David waiting to be open about his sin until he got caught?

Living with the sin until you get caught means you are living with a guilty conscience.

Waiting until you get caught is not a good example of how to confess in a Biblical way. There are major consequences!

PRACTICALS:

Find a disciple to talk to today, and be open beyond embarrassment about your sin, your thoughts, attitudes, etc.

Be proactive and not reactive about your sin. Do not wait until you get caught to confess. Be open today about the temptations you are facing.

DAY 17: WHY DO WE CONFESS?

1 JOHN 1:5-9

1. How is God described in this passage?

Read John 3:19-21

2. If you live in darkness what are you doing to yourself? Are you purified from your sin?

3. What do you do when you are by yourself? What sins do you easily fall into?

-Because what describes your character is who you are when no one is watching!

4. What specific sins are keeping/hindering you from being in the light?

-Reference sin lists: **Mark 7:20-23, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:3-11,**

2 Timothy 3:1-5

5. What makes it hard for you to stay in the light? What fears about being open are stopping you?

6. What are ways to fight to continue to stay in the light? How will you specifically fight to stay in the light today?

7. According to this scripture, what does it look like to be in the light?

8. According to this scripture, how does it feel to be in the light?

9. Why should you fight to continuously be in the light? What are the consequences of not?

PRACTICAL:

Make a plan to confess your sin!

1. What sins do you know that you will be tempted with this week? What sins do you know that you will be tempted with today?

2. What scriptures do you have to fight those temptations?

3. Who are you going to confess to and pray with? (**James 5:16**)