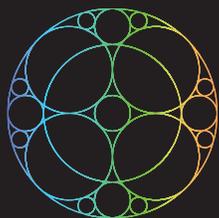


Discussion Guide.

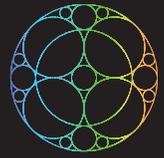


The Church I See

WEEK .05

IS PASSIONATE ABOUT _____

Teaching Text



(NKJV) James 1:21-25 21

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

(NIV) John 17:17

Sanctify them by Your truth: your word is truth.

(NKJV) Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Recap

This week Banning Liebscher jumps back into the series called “The Church I See”, by reminding us that we must be a people “Submitted to Scripture”. In order to be thriving in our walk with Christ, we must be planted in three soils: the Presence of God, the Word of God and the family of God. What our lives are rooted in and what is at the foundation of all that we do, matters. If our foundation is not the Word of God, then we will find ourselves building our lives upon something shaky and unstable.

The Word of God is our foundation and final authority because the Word of God is truth. God’s Word is not merely true but it is the truth that we measure everything else by. When we are not anchoring our lives to God’s truth we look to something else to measure truth by. We usually turn to one of two things to define truth: our feelings or mass opinion. But truth is not found in what we feel or what the masses say; both of those things are unstable. Defining truth apart from the Word of God leads to fluid truth that will ultimately lead to confusion and chaos.

We look at society and see it as a car speeding out of control, swerving everywhere, heading towards a cliff or

even flying off that cliff, with no clear direction (truth is relative, can you really know it, truth is whatever you feel, and we can each have our own truth). It is both chaotic and unstable. But there are Christians who are also riding in the directionless car and are headed towards a cliff. Believers are racing out of control and crashing in their faith. When we see someone crash in their faith they have let go of one of two things (or both): community and Scripture. Ultimately, God’s truth leads to freedom and non-truth leads to bondage.

If His Word is truth, how do we relate to it? We cannot approach Scripture casually and we must learn to fully submit to it. Just as a marriage relationship is a covenant and has a certain degree of weightiness to it, we must approach God’s Word in the same way. We must also approach Scripture with humility and learn to lay aside any arrogance that we may have. We want freedom with no boundaries or restrictions, but when you remove boundaries and restrictions you no longer have freedom (a bridge without guardrails). Scripture tells us what is right and wrong and provides us with an unshakable foundation to build our lives upon.

Discussion Guide

EMOTIONAL HEALTH CHECK IN

Take a few minutes to do an emotional health check in with your Community, creating space for each person to answer the question below:

What were the high and low points of this last week for you?

If the need arises, spend a few minutes praying for one another, asking God to meet needs and help each person carry what feels heavy right now.

ENGAGE

1. When you think about the three soils that our lives are to be planted in (the Presence of God, the Word of God and the family of God) what comes up for you? Do you feel firmly planted in each of these areas?
2. When you reflect on the major areas of your life (identity, relationships, finances), are there areas where you have allowed your emotions or mass opinion to become your foundation?
3. Is there a particular Biblical truth (verse or passage of scripture) that you are clinging to in this season?

ENCOUNTER

Spend a few minutes in stillness and quiet (you may want to play soaking music) in your group and ask Holy Spirit the following question:

Holy Spirit, are there any areas of my life that I have built on a shaky foundation? Have I allowed my feelings or mass opinion to step in and replace your truth? Please highlight those areas and replace them with your truth.

If time permits, allow those who want to, share what God spoke to them during the Encounter time.

EQUIP

Choose a passage of Scripture that resonates with you in this season. Commit to reading it several times throughout the week and memorize a portion of it. Pay attention to how that affects your mindset and behavior as you progress throughout the week.

