



GROUP ICE BREAKER

If you had to give a twenty-minute speech in front of a large crowd, what topic would you speak on and why?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week? How did it go?

- I will place my life under the authority of the Bible.
- I will ask God to form me spiritually as I read Scripture.
- I will ask God to wash my mind with the Word.
- I will read with a readiness to obey God.
- I will reflect on Scripture in order to transform my mind.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

One of our core values as a church is what we call Biblical teaching. God uses Spirit-anointed teaching as a catalyst to change lives. The purpose of biblical teaching is to help Christ be formed in us. So how exactly do we go about using teaching for the transformation of our lives?

First, biblical teaching is absolutely foundational for the church. When Jesus was giving the great commission at the end of the Gospel of Matthew, He tells them, "Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, of all people, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Jesus was involved in a primarily teaching ministry, renewing people's minds and the formation of their souls.

But how exactly do we receive teaching in a way that will really transform us? There is one thing that is critical: we must devote ourselves to learning with a repentant spirit. We must devote ourselves to learning- not to gain knowledge- but receive teaching, and learn in a repentant spirit.

Ask yourself this question: Do I receive teaching as a student or as a consumer? The key question for us to keep in mind as we devote ourselves to teaching and studying the word of God is how shall I respond? God, what do You want me to do? Be committed to learning in a spirit of humble responsiveness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Peter stood before a crowd that was skeptical at best or hostile at worst, and shared Jesus with them. Have you had an experience like this, either before a group or with an individual? Share about the experience, what happened and what you learned from it.

2. Peter message is an example of how to engage others with the gospel. Read Acts 2:14-40 and discuss the following together:
 - What are the truths about Jesus to be believed?

 - What must a person do to be saved?

 - What are the reasons why we need to be saved?

3. Why do you think biblical teaching was so foundational for the early church? Does it accomplish for us today what it did for them? How so?

4. Take a moment of self-reflection to answer this question: are you receiving teaching as a student or a consumer? Discuss the differences. What's required to be a student?

5. How have you been transformed by the teaching of God's word? What's the biggest change you've experienced?

6. What keeps people, or yourself, from asking, "God, what do you want me to do?" in response to what they've heard? Why is an attitude of humble responsiveness often so challenging?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will devote myself to learning with a repentant spirit.
- I will evaluate whether I receive teaching as a student or a consumer.
- I will learn in a spirit of humble responsiveness.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Acts 2:13-42
- Romans 12:2
- Psalm 1:2