

Session 2: Know the Gospel, part 1

Why study scripture?

Recap

- Structure: Know, Live, Advance
- Flow: Why → How

Pre-work question 1

- Any questions about the CG Leader role description?

Why do we study scripture?

Reading: “Why study the Bible?” from *Multiply* by Francis Chan and Mark Beuving

Pre-work questions 3-4

- What did you find that was new to you, or most helpful, in the chapter?
- On pages 93-95 Chan and Beuving discussed faulty motivations for studying scripture. Which of those, or any others, are you most prone to?
- When you aren’t operating with those faulty motivations, why do you read the Bible? If we’re honest, the Bible is often difficult or confusing, most people think it’s outdated, and we rarely have time to read it. So why do you?



Dietrich Bonhoeffer on our need for God's word:

The Christian lives wholly by the truth of God's Word in Jesus Christ. If someone asks him, Where is your salvation, your righteousness? he can never point to himself. He points to the Word of God in Jesus Christ, which assures him salvation and righteousness. He is as alert as possible to this Word. Because he daily hungers and thirsts for righteousness, he daily desires the redeeming Word. And it can come only from the outside. In himself he is destitute and dead. Help must come from the outside, and it has come and comes daily and anew in the Word of Jesus Christ, bringing redemption, righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

But God has put this Word into the mouth of men in order that it may be communicated to other men. When one person is struck by the Word, he speaks it to others. God has willed that we should seek and find his living Word in the witness of a brother, in the mouth of man. Therefore, the Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes uncertain and discouraged, for by himself he cannot help himself without belying the truth. He needs his brother man as a bearer and proclaimer of the divine word of salvation. He needs his brother solely because of Jesus Christ. The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain, his brother's is sure.

And that also clarifies the goal of all Christian community: they meet one another as bringers of the message of salvation.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, p. 22-23

What's a phrase that stands out to you from that quote. Why?



Doubters, Seekers, and Followers

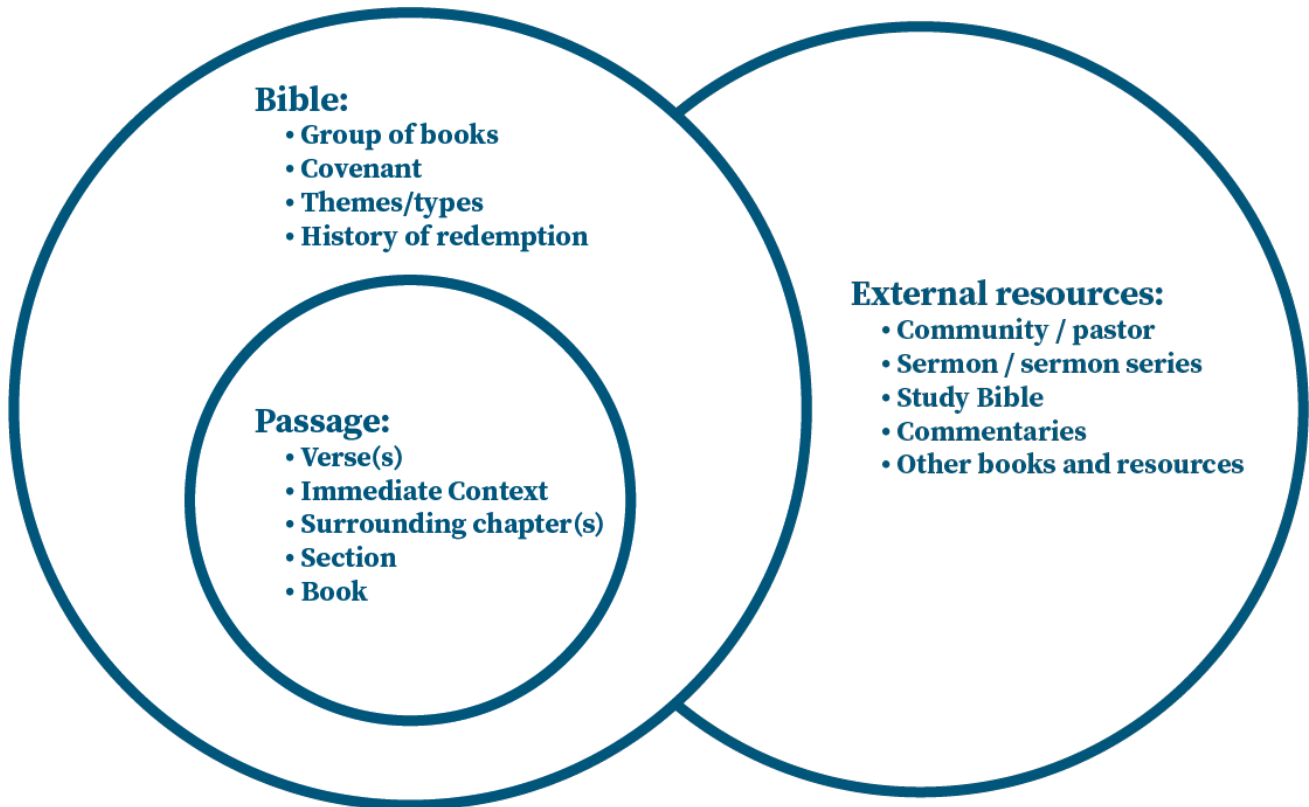
How do you think having doubters, seekers, and followers in a community group affects the way that we study scripture together?

Biblical Interpretation

Turn to Ezekiel 47:1-12. How would you start to make sense of this passage?



3 circles for understanding a passage:



Key things to look for:

- Passage: Look for vitals: author, genre, time period, audience, history of redemption
- Bible: every passage has some gospel aspect
- External resources: insight is great, novelty is not

Discussion Guide passage intros

Head to cg.vintagenc.com and click on the “This week’s guide” link at the top to see an example of a discussion guide intro.

These intros are meant to be a jumping off point for your own study, a refresher from the sermon, and an explanation for the direction of the discussion questions.



Some helpful resources when studying scripture:

- cg.vintagenc.com
- Your CG coach, Eric, and Vintage pastors
- A study Bible (ESV Study Bible or another non-topical study Bible are good options)
- biblehub.com – multiple translations in a comparison format
- studylight.org – multiple translations, commentaries, and original languages
- Commentaries – *Christ Centered Exposition* Series and John Stott's *The Bible Speaks Today* series are two good options

