

Study of Luke Ch. 2-Student

Know God's Word

Opening

Pray. *You start off with prayer. Ask for God to be in your conversation and to increase faith through this time.*

Have you ever been to a family reunion? What is it like? What goes on during your reunions?

What is your favorite Bible story and why? Other than Jesus, who is your favorite person in the Bible and why?

Study

In this lesson, we will talk about knowing God's Word and what that means for us as disciples. Knowing God's Word is important for many reasons. It gives us identity, purpose, knowledge, faith, understanding, wisdom, equips us to share God's message with others, and so much more. Many times we settle for hearing what someone else has to say about God's Word than actually discovering it for ourselves.

Let's take a moment to look at Jesus' love for talking about the Word of God.

Read [Luke 2:39-52](#).

Each person, retell in your own words what happened in this section?

Name at least one thing that stands out to you in this account. What questions do you have? They can be specific or general. They can be dreaming questions or what-ifs. They can be factual or investigative. The point is to name some questions we could ask.

Why are Jesus's family in Jerusalem (v.41)? What Christian holidays does this connect with?

Who was Jesus's family traveling with (v.44)? Where do you suppose they are from?

Jesus was with his family and friends for this very important feast that all Jews celebrated. Many families would travel to Jerusalem to celebrate this festival, offer sacrifices, and hear teachings about God's Word.

After being in Jerusalem for 8 days, it was time to make this 3-5 day walk home. After making a day's walk, Jesus was nowhere to be found. Joseph and Mary made that day's walk back to Jerusalem probably that next morning to find Jesus. Then it took 3 days to find Jesus.

How old was Jesus? How would you have felt if you were Joseph and Mary and you misplaced the Son of God? How would you have felt if you were Jesus's age and you were left behind?

Where was Jesus and what was He doing (v.46)?

It's easy to miss what happening here. Rabbis not only taught certain theology (personal teachings based out of scripture), they also asked difficult questions. In fact, some Rabbis considered themselves to be great not because they knew God's Word, but because they could ask and answer their own difficult questions. Rabbis were a type of religious philosophers for their day.

What made Jesus stand out to these Rabbis and crowds (v.47)?

How was Jesus able to answer these questions and ask good questions (v.40)?

How does one grow in the wisdom of God?

While Jesus had the advantage of being omniscient (all-knowing), He was also human and spent time learning and memorizing God's Word as any other child would have. How do you spend time in God's Word? In what ways can you grow in being in God's Word?

Mark of a Disciple: Know God's Word

As disciples, we know that God's Word is important. God's Word is not something that we should learn as we tend to learn information in school. Many of us learn to pass a test and move on. This kind of learning is short term. God's Word changes lives when we spend time learning it for the long term. As disciples, we want to be transformed by the renewal of our minds (Romans 12:2).

As we think about Jesus' time in the temple, we are reminded that one of the great ways to learn and to teach is to ask questions. Asking questions helps us to assess God's Word and discover things we would otherwise gloss over. Asking questions gives us a posture of humility knowing that we do not have all the answers. Asking questions allows God's Word to speak to us directly and through the Spirit. Asking questions prepares us to have an answer when others ask us about faith and makes us comfortable for those questions that do not have answers. Asking questions maintains a thirst and desire to know God and to see Him face to face.

What is your biggest struggle when reading God's Word? Why is it a struggle? What do you need to recognize in regards to your struggle?

When you read God's Word, how do you typically approach it? Like a have to, get to, or want to? Why? How does that affect your reading of God's Word?

Knowing God's Word takes time. It is an investment. There are times you may read it and not hear God say anything. There are times that what God wants you to understand or know has to take shape through experiences connected with His Word.

Create a plan to grow in your ability to know God's Word. It might be reading it. It might be praying scripture. It might be by memorizing a verse a week. Make your plan specific and share it with your group. Check-in on each other.

Prayer Time

Take prayer requests. Have everyone write them down so that each day you may pray for one another. Then, pray for each other before you close.

Are there any fears or concerns around the pandemic? Please be sensitive to each other and listen. Respond with encouragement from God's Word.