

Jan 26th 2025 Holy Habits – Word of God– Ezekiel 37:1-14

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

If someone were to ask you, how often are you reading the Word of God, what would your answer be? Not listening to a sermon, or a podcast, but soaking in the Word of God. Hardly, occasionally, consistently?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Ezekiel 37:1-14. This passage is speaking about the people of Israel, and their dry bones being brought back to life by the Lord. **Verse 4-5** talk about listening to the Word of God, and the Lord giving the dry bones life through His breath and giving them life! **2 Timothy 3:16** also uses this imagery of God's Word being God's very breath! How have you seen God's Word bring life to your life in a season of barrenness or dryness? If God's Word is life giving, why do we often neglect to be in it?

Question 2: Read 2 Kings 22:8-20. This passage shows the Book of Law was found in the House of the Lord after it had been neglected for many years. **Verse 11** shows that when the Word of God was read, it brought conviction to King Josiah! In what ways recently has God convicted you of sin when reading His Word? Read **verses 18-20**. Because of Josiah's repentant and humble response to God's Word, Josiah is spared from the consequences of the sin of His people. How has God's Word reminded you this week of God's mercy towards you and your sin? **Open the Word of God.**

Question 3: Read Mark 4:1-20. This passage shows 4 different types of soil that the Word of God falls in, but only one of them produces fruit! In the soil by the road, Satan steals the word that was sown (**v.15**). In the rocky soil, the Word is received with joy, but there are no roots and when life gets hard they fall away (**v.16-17**). In the soil with thorns, the cares of the world and desires for other things choke out the word (**v.19-20**). All of these types of soils are around the Word of God, but nothing grows from it! How do you prepare your heart to receive God's Word? What practical ways can you make sure your heart is prepared to receive what God wants you to hear? **Prepare your Heart for God.**

Question 4: Read 1 Samuel 3:1-14. This passage shows Samuel learning how to listen to the voice of God. **Verse 1** emphasizes that the "word of the Lord" was rare in those days! Three different times the voice of the Lord comes to Samuel, but Samuel did not know the Lord yet (**v.7**). This passage shows us it is impossible to listen to God's voice when we don't know Him yet! Finally, Samuel learns that it was God's voice speaking to Him and responds to Him! If the Word of God was "rare" in those days, what do you see in your own life when God's

word is “rare?” How difficult is it to hear and discern God’s voice when you don’t know what He says in His Word?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?