



ALL SAINTS

Sermon Discussion Guide

Practices of a Missionary People for a Secular Age: Study/Small Group

FEBRUARY 15, 2016

INTRO Questions:

How do you know God? What role do small groups play?

Background:

Greg explained that Scripture is God's self-revelation of *who* he is, *what* he has done, and what he's *going to do*. Greg compared the Bible to a composer's notes on what he's composed. He also argued that there's a difference between studying and learning, and that the word for "study" in the original Greek meant "to do your best," as we see at the beginning of 2 Tim 2:15. So studying entails taking what you are learning and putting it into practice. It's not merely an academic exercise but includes practical application.

READ the text aloud

DISCUSS:

1) Ps 115:1-8: Why did Greg include these verses from the Psalm as part of his sermon text? *Hint*: idols are the things we devote ourselves to, the things we "study."

2 Tim 2:15

2) Discuss the implications of the phrases "do your best" and "a worker who has no need to be ashamed," in the context of Greg's sermon and studying Scripture.

3) What does this phrase mean: "rightly handling the word of truth?" What are the implications for leaders in the church? Individual Christians? For small group study?

4) Consider the office of overseer/elder in 1 Tim 3 in light of 2 Tim 2:15. What does this say about the role of the session (pastors & elders) in overseeing small groups?

5) Vocation & Study: As creatures in God's world we're created to study all of creation in a way that brings God glory. Apply this to your work, hobbies, etc.

6) Vocation and Redemption: What's the purpose of your work/vocation (including student and homemaker) in the world God has already made and how can you pursue your work, even now, for the world to come? In other words, how can you, in your vocation participate in God's ongoing redemption of the world? Imagine together!

Conclusion/Application:

Study and small groups are vital pieces of how we know God and grow in our relationship with Him. But we must examine our motives and the fruit that we bear from these practices. Are we simply seeking more knowledge *about* God and talking *about* God? Or are we *encountering* and *coming to know* the living and active God as he conforms us to Christ-likeness? We must seek to study and imitate Christ so we can radiate him and his glory in our vocations, relationships, and all that we do.

Psalm 118:1 & 2 Tim 2:15

English Standard Version (ESV)

^{ESV} **Psalm 118:1** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

³ Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

⁴ Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

⁵ Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free.

⁶ The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

⁷ The LORD is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

⁸ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

^{ESV} **2 Timothy 2:15**

¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.