

RESOURCE FOR THRIVING TOGETHER SMALL GROUPS

September 7, 2025

Before we begin delving into Scripture and moving into discussion and application, we realize that many of us may feel intimidated and sometimes perceive the Bible to be irrelevant to the reader in the 21st century. Here are some points for you to note as we journey together in small groups and thrive together....

Engaging with the Bible individually and as a community is based on the following facts and principles:

- All Scripture is "God-breathed". This is based on 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that states the Scripture is useful to teach us what is true, and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. Through the Bible, we are corrected when we are wrong and we are re-directed to do what is right according to God's way of living. God speaks through Scripture to prepare and equip His people to do every good work. Similar to an architect's design constructed over time by various workers who follow His design and measurements in order to produce the structure the architect designs.
- Why can we trust the Bible?
 - Jesus Himself explained the Scripture (Old Testament to us) when he interacted with the people of his day.
 - He held the Word of God as being authoritative yet relational and invitational, revealing God's desire to be with His people, to save His people, and to strengthen His people, as well as to prepare His people. All of which He promises and has been faithful to do, reflected in history as well as in testimonies of Christians up through the 21st century.
 - Hebrew 4:12-16 – The Word of God is alive and active – sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating to dividing the soul and spirit, joints and marrow. The Word exposes and judges thoughts and attitudes. Nothing is hidden from Him and He is the one to whom we are accountable. Let us hold firmly to believing in Jesus, who is our High Priest & Advocate, who understands our weaknesses because He has faced the same testing we do, yet He did not sin. We will receive His mercy and we will find grace when we need it the most.
- We reflect on what we read and learn, slowing and thoroughly, allowing the Holy Spirit, our Counselor and Teacher, to make the text clear and understandable for us to practice what we know.

- Knowing the social and spiritual context of the time during which the author wrote is vital to us being able to appropriately apply and practice what we discover in our time together. We have resources and insights from trusted scholars and commentaries.

Pray and ask the Lord to give us a desire to know Him, insight to understand, & thank Him in expectation because He is faithful.

- Suggested prayer: Psalm 119:18 “Open my eyes that I may see and discover the wonderful truths in your word to us”.
- Read Luke 24: 45 “Then, He (Jesus) opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures”.

The goal of these small groups is to:

- Move from “knowing about Jesus” to “knowing Jesus personally” (His character, His purpose for the church)
- Move from “knowing about one another” to “knowing one another more deeply” to encourage each other to live in step with Jesus.
 - Engaging in spiritual conversations for the purpose of building up, edifying, encouraging one another