

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Pick one of your favorite books in the Bible. What do you love about it (i.e., why is it one of your favorites)?
3. Watch "The Gospel" in the BibleProject *How to Read the Bible* series. Note some of your personal key takeaways.
4. The Holy Spirit inspired four different authors to tell the story of Jesus in their unique ways, so we should not ignore the distinct messages of each gospel writer by simply mashing the stories together. For a good example of distinct messaging, read the Lord's Prayer in its context in Matthew and Luke (Matthew 6:1-15 and Luke 11:1-4). Aside from the differences in the prayer itself, how do the different contexts of each lead to different lessons or applications regarding the prayer?
5. How is your understanding of the Lord's Prayer expanded by having these two versions? (Remember, the first readers of Luke and Matthew didn't have the other gospel for comparison, so be careful not to harmonize the two.)
6. Matthew develops three themes that speak powerfully to issues of our day and challenges in our lives: Jesus as the anticipated Messiah speaks to the despair of our day by offering hope; Jesus as the new Moses speaks to the confusion in our culture by offering direction and guidance; Jesus as God with us speaks to the epidemic of loneliness. How has Jesus "spoken" to you in times of despair, confusion, or loneliness?



Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



7. In the prayer time for your small group, come with the name of someone in your life who is far from God and experiencing despair, confusion, or loneliness. Which of the BLESS practices will you commit to doing with or for that person this week?