

Home Groups | Week 7 [10.23.16]

True North | The Bible | Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Mark 12:28-34

Icebreaker:

What is one lesson you were taught by an adult for which you are most grateful today?

Read: Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Mark 12:28-34

Discuss:

1. What doubts have you personally experienced about the Bible? How did you work through them?
2. The ZPC preacher usually says after reading the scripture, "This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God." When you hear the Bible called the word of the Lord, how do you feel about that?
3. We say that God is revealed through the Bible. What are some things the Bible reveals about God? In the past seven weeks of this series, has God revealed something new to you?
4. The Ten Commandments are listed in Deuteronomy 5. How do you think those commands relate to loving God and loving neighbor?
5. Deuteronomy 6 says to impress God's commands on our children, and to talk about them often. Did someone pass down their faith to you? Have you been able to pass down faith to your children, or other covenant children?
6. Why do you think Jesus added the command loving your neighbor to loving God as the greatest commandment? What have you learned about loving your neighbor?
7. What is a reading plan or resource you could use to deepen your understanding of the Bible?

As your group closes, please keep the following prayer requests in mind:

- > Prayers of healing for Donna Bahler and Wanda Baker.
- > Prayers of comfort for Lisa and Mel Prince and family in the death of Lisa's mother and for Kent and Beth Snyder in the death of Kent's father.

Home Groups | Week 7 [10.23.16]

True North | The Bible | Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Mark 12:28-34

Reminders for your group:

> We need candy and volunteers for ZPC's Fall Celebration on October 30...especially families to decorate their cars and participate in trunk or treat! Go to zpc.org for more information and to sign up.

Leader's Notes:

Certainly entire books and series of books have been written about the Bible. We discuss it briefly as part of our True North – how do we point toward Christ? We do so by reading the Bible, praying the Bible, studying the Bible, understanding its stories and teachings, and then seeing how it applies to our lives. May you be blessed by studying the Bible and its impact in your group.

[Question 1] Let your group know it is ok to have doubts about faith issues. It is good to ask questions and see if others have some answers for them or places they can go to find answers. Some parts of the Bible can be confusing and the miraculous stories can sometimes lead to questions.

[Question 2] The Bible is truly God's Word. But do the members of your group believe it? Some may struggle with that. They can gain confidence by studying it with other Christians to see what it has to say to them, and to build trust in its authenticity.

[Question 3] You might think about past week's topics such as God, identity, salvation or the sacraments, and ask what has been revealed to them by God. What has each person learned from this study?

[Question 4] Many Christians think commandments 1-4 relate to loving God and 5-10 relate to loving others (see the 10 Commandments in Deuteronomy 5). So they can relate very much to the greatest commandment to love God in Deuteronomy 6:5 and to love neighbor as Jesus says in Mark 12.

[Question 5] Often times, we can point to one or two people who helped us learn about God or develop our faith. Many times these are parents, grandparents, or other mentors. Who was it for each person in your group that passed down their faith?

[Question 6] Loving your neighbor can be seen in God's commands in Leviticus 19:18 and 19:34. But Jesus attaches loving your neighbor to loving God. We can show love to an invisible God by loving visible neighbors right around us – like Hoosier Neighbor. Jesus loved the poor, hurting and sick in his area. we can do the same today.

[Question 7] You might point your group members to favorite devotionals. Some popular and good devotionals are "My Utmost for His Highest" by Oswald Chambers and "Jesus Calling" by Sarah Young. "Bible Gateway" is a good website to look up verses, find free commentaries or sign up for email devotionals. Additionally, the ZPC Library has a few good Bible resources such as *Bible Study Methods: Twelve Ways You Can Unlock God's Word* by Rick Warren.