

REVIEW

A few key quotes and ideas to reflect on:

- Paul didn't always think/live like this, but once He actually met Jesus, and understood that Jesus was the MEDIATOR/RANSOM between God and people, and that God had been mercifully patient with him until Paul got it - everything changed for him, and he becomes a herald of this Good News: *"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Mark 10:45
- Paul wanted the Corinthians, and us, to know that **We can have confidence in the truthfulness of God's message.** It's not a myth/fable; no hidden agendas.
- In 4:1-6, Paul says that we need "spiritual glasses," as it were, to understand spiritual truths (see also 1 Cor. 2:6-16): "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so they can't see the light of the gospel." "God made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Christ." **This is the work of Re-creation (regeneration);** and how God does this work is a mystery. **But...**
 - *The fact that WE NEED Him to do it is a reality (John 3:3).*
 - *The fact that HE CAME to do it for us is a reality (John 8:12).*
 - *And the fact that WE MUST ask Him to do it is a reality (John 1:9-13).*

ASK:

- **Now ask just a few simple questions:**
 - **Read 4:1-6 again.** How does Paul describe people's ability to understand the gospel? What does Paul say God has done in order to "recreate" or "regenerate" our hearts so we can understand the gospel?
 - We can have confidence in the illuminating ability of God's power. **Spiritual Life is not something that we create by our own ability,** or assemble with our own ideas (both are popular ideas today). God has to give it to you. **APP:** Have you asked God to do this for you?
 - **Read 4:7-5:10 together.** In light of God's truthfulness and power, we can have confidence in the security of our future with God. **How often do you put your present trials into the context of your future glory?** God often invites us to do that. It's not escapism, or wishful thinking; it's the Promise of God. **Are you living in light of this reality?**
 - **Look at the chart below.** What about God's character captivates you? What needs to captivate you more?

PREVIEW Next week we will be in 2 Corinthians 5:11-7:16. Spend some time reading this together. **Read your selected passage out loud** (if studying in a group, all but one person should keep their Bibles closed for now). Read slowly. Line by line if you can. Read as if for the first time.

ASK (a guide for this is on the next page)

- **What does it say?** ("Don't be showy....don't be wordy")
- **What do you see?** (picture the scene, the people. What stands out?)
- **What happens next?** Guess! (say, "I wonder...")
- **What do you hear?** (What word comes to mind after reading? Spend some time in silent prayer before answering. *Why do you think God included this here in the Story?*)
- **What do you want to do?** (as a result of what Jesus has done)

PRAY TOGETHER

Worship God for who He is (His attributes revealed in these passages)

Confess the sinful emotions, attitudes, and behaviors that result when we forget who He is

Thank God for what He has done in Christ and your life

Ask God to transform you and to help you apply His word today.

LECTIO VISIO

Christians believe in God's Word and take him at his Word. Yet 21st century Christians have a difficult time seeing God's Word the same way God's people have for centuries: **visually**. That's what this method of Scripture reading is designed to do: help you see the text.

3 INGREDIENTS

3 candles, or a 3 wick candle

1 Passage (preferably narrative, 5-10 verses)

12 or fewer people (Christians or non-Christians)

10 COMMANDMENTS OF LECTIO VISIO

1. No prep! (Lead by asking)
2. Pray simple prayers (tsp prayers: Thank you, Sorry, Please)
3. Shut your Bibles (yup, you read that correctly. Don't worry.)
4. Open your eyes (senses) and picture the scene. Try to get down in the dust of the story.
5. Direct the Film (you as the leader help the biblical scene come alive for those you're studying with)
6. No peeking ahead (1 verse at a time)
7. No rabbit trails (stick to what the text says, not "I feels")
8. Keep telling the story (instead of explaining, WONDER)
9. Keep silence
10. Lead by asking the 5Qs
11. Repeat #2 TSP.

THE 5 QUESTIONS

1. What did it say?
2. What do you see?
3. What happens next? (Guess)
4. What do you hear? (Then/Now)
5. What do you want to do?

A COUPLE EXTRA TIPS FOR LEADERS

Mirror the group. Repeat back what is said and direct them back to the story if things get off track.

Lead Strong. God is actually the one leading the discussion by his Word. Take courage. Have fun. Encourage a bit of playfulness.