



Discussion Questions for the week of October 23

BIG IDEA: Many of us have grown up knowing or quickly grown to know the resounding anthem: Read your Bible. The thing is most of us don't know the true *How* or *Why*. In this series we are going to start with the fundamentals- How should we handle scripture? Why do we need to read a book authored hundreds of years ago? We have worked our way to the application part of this series. For a few weeks now there's been only HW, no "now go apply to your life". Today we are ready for applying, but we must not forget the preceding steps.

What does the process of observing and interpreting the Bible look like for you? Is good observation key for good interpretation? Is good interpretation key for good application? How do we know we're implementing the message of a passage the way God would have us live it out?

ICE BREAKER:

What do you hope to gain out of Jr High Retreat? If you can't make it this week what will you be doing this weekend?

DISCUSSION:

- How did reading 1 John 3 go? Was there anything that stood out after spending a week in it?
- What questions do you have from 1 John 3? What didn't make sense?

[Leaders: again, hopefully your kids have been in the word throughout the week and have questions or observations of their own. If not, guide them into a discussion over a couple verses of chapter 3. Lead them through observing the text and have them flush out those "churchy" words or phrases and to ask what doesn't make sense. Also walk them through how knowing the context gives a bigger picture of the passage.]
- What are the 3 P's of Application? Is there a large piece of accountability here?
Respectively: Prayer, Public, Practice AND accountability is largely YOUR responsibility
- Why does it matter that we apply God's word?
- Braun had us look at Eph 4:29 in WAKE on Sunday. How do we first observe and then interpret this verse. (You'll need to maybe read in greater context.) How are we then to apply this verse to our life?
- Since last week we only got through the first half of Chapter 2 this week we are starting in verse 11 of Chapter 3.
Read 1 John 3: 11-23
- Verse 11, should set up context and verse 12 is a cross reference (to where?) what else do you observe throughout the passage verse 13-23?
- What is the message of this passage? What might we interpret the "teachable" points to be?
- After reflecting, how might we apply this to our lives? What do we need to do as far as changing actions or praying over areas of our lives for Spirit's conviction?
- How is conversion different from transformation? Do we want to convert to Christianity or be transformed by Christ?
- Is transformation a one and done? The bible calls God's word living and active, right? (where does it say that?) Why might we describe a book and words as living and active. What is a sign of living things/ active things? How does this apply to you?

APPLICATION:

- Consider this: Many people stop with interpretation, they say I now know what X is saying or how to define Y and I can go forward in my life knowing God's truth. The problem is knowledge doesn't create responsibility. Several times God says to whom much is given much is expected. (Parable of the talents and servants.)
- Remember SPECS? (depending on the service kids may not have heard about that) "Specs" are a short term for reading glasses- we always want to apply God's word with our "specs" on- Sin to avoid, Promise to claim, Example to follow, Command to obey, Scripture to memorize
- Don't stop here. There's more of 1 John- read Chapter 4 & 5! There's way more of the bible still. The great things is if you study a chapter or a book once, this Word is living and active- there's more for you to gain by going back. God's not finished with us as long as we're breathing so until He calls us home let us seek to be transformed daily.

