



Discussion Questions for the week of October 16

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?

What does the process of interpreting the Bible look like for you? Is good observation key for good interpretation? How would you start to find scripture on a hot button topic for you? (Example you're struggling with anger- where do you turn?)

ICE BREAKER:

What's the best fair activity you've done? (Fried foods, rides, attractions)

DISCUSSION:

1. How do we interpret verses like Philippians 4:13? Does this verse mean I can fly as long as I have Christ?
2. What does it mean to take something out of context? How does knowing the context (what it meant then) of a passage help us understand the passage? How do we find out context? (What we learned last week)
3. What resources can we use to find more information about the background of a particular passage?
 - Context, Cross-reference, Commentary
 - biblegateway.com
 - gotquestions.org
 - soniclight.com
 - [Leaders: it might be helpful to answer some questions they have in 1 John 2 by walking through these web resources with them in small group]
4. Read 1 John 2:1-5. Remember- Why is John writing this letter- who's the audience, context, etc? What has stood out to you in these verses (maybe patterns you saw this week)?
5. Depending on version in your verse 2 it either says "propitiation" or in Verse 2 it calls Christ our advocate- what do those words mean? How could those phrases be used interchangeably? What then is that verse saying?
6. What's the message of verse 4? Look at NIV versus NLT versus ESV if you have such variety in group. Lets then use this for context with verse 5. How are you living? Look- verse 6 says live as Jesus did.
7. Read together verses 7-11 now.
8. What's this old vs new commandment business? How is it you are able to answer this question? (You have prior knowledge of ten commandments/ old testaments/ references to the "law")
9. In verse 9 is intense, but what's it mean? We should take the bible at face value, right? Consider how verse 11 can help clarify verse 9.
10. Read Verses 12-14. That's giving our audience right? Why do we have different disclaimers for different parties?
11. Read verses 15-17. Verse 15- here's another "the love of the father is not in them" ... if what? So this is saying we can tell people don't know True love if _____ and from before (vs 9) _____.
12. Verse 17 is says if we do the will of God we have eternal life. So is salvation works based? What would this mean?

*(We ran out of time and think you would to to get to verses 18-29 but by all means have at it if you are moving right along. Encourage kids that this form of reading our bibles is not for "time test" or completion but for comprehension, retention, and quality. We're doing depth not distance. Encourage them to add those verses to their HW along with chapter 3.)

KEEP IT GOING (YOU GOT THIS):

13. How was your time in the word this past week? What was working? What wasn't working? What can you do to help you to stay engaged in the Word?
14. For this next week read 1 John 3 each day. Again, read it slow and engage with the text by asking yourself questions about the chapter. Come ready to dive into it again at Wake on Sunday.

15. Journal your thoughts and questions and share them with your parents, small group, or friend. Ask yourself what it would look like to apply what you are reading and do it!