

WEEK 2: SEEING THE STORY, NOT JUST STORIES

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PREPARE

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MAIN POINT

Jesus declared that John the Baptist's mission was to point people to Him, that the miracles Jesus was performing were to point people to Him, and that all Scripture points to Him. If we read Scripture and miss Jesus, then we are misreading Scripture. The Bible is not a collection of stories, but one overarching story that points people to Jesus. J.I. Packer wrote: "Whatever else in the Bible catches your eye, do not let it distract you from Him!" How do we read the Bible? To see Jesus. The Scripture is not primarily a presentation of heroes to emulate or a list of principles to follow, but the story of Savior to know.

LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

What are some of your favorite kinds of books to read (or listen to), and why?

LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read John 5:31-40

31 "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true.
32 There is another who testifies about me, and I know that the testimony he gives about me is true.
33 You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth.
34 I don't receive human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved.
35 John was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.

36 “But I have a greater testimony than John’s because of the works that the Father has given me to accomplish. These very works I am doing testify about me that the Father has sent me.

37 The Father who sent me has himself testified about me. You have not heard his voice at any time, and you haven’t seen his form.

38 You don’t have his word residing in you, because you don’t believe the one he sent.

39 You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me.

40 But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life.

In John 5:31, Jesus says, “If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true.” What does Jesus mean by this?

In John 5:32, Jesus says, “There is another who testifies about me, and I know that the testimony he gives about me is true.” Who is He talking about in this verse?

Read John 5:38-40. Can you summarize what Jesus is saying here in your own words?

LOOK OUT
IDENTIFY THE
RELEVANCE OF
GOD'S WORD IN
THE WORLD

In John 5 Jesus warns His listeners that you can know the Scriptures without knowing Him. How does this happen? What does it look like?

The whole Bible points to Jesus. Can you think of some characters or events that point to Jesus? Share them and reflect on them together.

LOOK IN
APPLY GOD'S
WORD TO YOUR
LIFE

How have you come to better know and love Jesus by reading the Bible? Or has that been difficult for you? Share your experiences.

What does it look like to find life in Jesus and not just understand who He is? How might that change how we live?

What are some questions that you can ask as you read the Bible to make sure you don't miss Jesus in the Scriptures? (Eric shared some of these in his message, if you can remember them.)