

# Practical Faith

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

There is nothing more foundational to the way we live as Christians than how we view God's word. How we approach and understand it has a direct and practical impact on our daily lives.

## ENGAGING THE WORD

What are some things that stood out to you in the sermon? Things you specifically related to? Things you didn't understand? Any new insight you are taking away?

## READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 AND 2 PETER 1:19

- What do these verses have to say about the Bible?
- What is the purpose of the Bible? Or put another way, why did God give us His word?
- How does the Bible equip us as Jesus' followers?

## ENGAGING THE HEART

- How would you describe your relationship and interaction with God's Word at this point in your faith journey?
- In what ways have you experienced life change through studying scripture?
- Spend some time thinking about and discussing what barriers or obstacles prevent you from spending time in God's Word. Also spend some time sharing how you have incorporated studying God's Word into your daily routine.

Spend some time applying what Ray taught in his message about how to study the Bible. Keep in mind the rules he mentioned:

- Remember when and where the Bible was written
- Realize the Bible is factual
- Recognize the Bible is written in various literary styles
- Respect the context
- Reject reading in meanings
- Research and get help

Read Ephesians 1 and consider these questions:

- What did I just read?
- What does this tell me about God?
- Is there an example to follow?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there an error to avoid or a warning to take seriously?
- Is there a sin to avoid or confess?

Finally, consider these two questions. If you are comfortable, share your answers with the group:

- What is God telling me after reading this passage?
- What am I going to do about it?

## ENGAGING OUR WORLD

What do you need to do to make meditating and studying God's Word a part of your daily experience? Spend some time discussing as a group. Close your time in prayer asking God to open your heart to His Word and to help you experience Him through your study.

# WEEK 3