



Messages

now

TXT Message from God

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April 22 & 23, 2017

Week 1: "I <3 U – A Love Story from Cover to Cover"

Introduction:

2 Timothy 3:14-17

The Main Things:

1. The main theme of the Bible is _____ (2 Tim. 3:15)
2. The main focus of the Bible is to _____ us to Jesus (John 5:39-40)
3. The main challenge of the Bible is to read it in _____ (Hebrews 1:1-2)
4. The main goal of the Bible is to _____ us into the love story (Esther 4:12-14)

Concluding Realities:

Ephesians 2:10

"Workmanship" = Greek *poiema* (poem, masterpiece, work of art)

The Grand Artist wants to display His masterpieces for the world to see. He invites us into the love story and wants to invite others through us. In the grand drama of life, will you be part of the cast, or content to be merely part of the audience?

SMALL GROUP Q'S

Personal Life:

1. In so many ways, we live in an increasingly post-Christian (even anti-Christian) culture. The Bible is not only regarded as untrustworthy, but as *evil* in the opinion of some. What are some of the harshest criticisms you've heard people say about the Bible?

Ponderings:

2. The Bible makes many claims of itself, including that it is "God-breathed" (2 Tim. 3:16), "living and active" and "sharper than a double-edge sword" (Hebrews 4:12), a "lamp to our feet" and a "light to our path" (Psalm 119:105), and many other positive, powerful things. Share honestly with your group about your relationship with the Bible...
 - How does the Bible impact your life personally?
 - What struggles have you had / do you have with reading the Bible?
 - Can you imagine a world without the Bible? What would be different?
 - If you could improve one thing about your interaction with the Bible, what would it be?
3. Jesus claims that even the Old Testament is all about Him (John 5:39-40; Luke 24:25-27). Do you find this difficult to grasp when you read the Old Testament? Why or why not?
4. As Christians, we do not worship the Bible, but the God revealed in the Bible. In what ways are the written Word (the Bible) and the living Word (Jesus) both inseparable and distinct? Can you know one without the other? Explain...
5. What if you truly believed and lived from the conviction that everything God says about you as a new creation is absolutely true? How would your daily life look different than it does right now?

Promptings:

6. If the Bible is the ultimate text message, revealing deep and transformational things about God, life, and reality, how can you prioritize the time investment needed to allow its full benefit into your life? What are some ways you've found helpful for being "in the Word" in the midst of your busy life?