What You Need To Know

Week 2: Reading the New Testament

CCV Groups Discussion Guide

OPENING QUESTION:

How did Mark's teaching this weekend help you better understand how to read and engage with the New Testament?

GROUPS VIDEO GUIDE

DISCUSS:

When we read the New Testament, we are reading with four big ideas in mind. Read each of the passages below and share with the group how you might apply this to your life this week.

- The present isn't permanent. 2 Corinthians 4:17–18, "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."
- Our identity is fixed in heaven. Colossians 3:2–3, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God."
- We are more loved than we ever imagined. Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." AND Romans 8:15, "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"
- We have more power than any can fathom. 1 John 4:4, "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

CHALLENGE:

Share with the group your personal "best practices" in reading the Bible.

PRAYER:

Using Psalm 19:7–11, pray through the text, thanking God for what his word means to you.

SCRIPTURES:

- 2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."
- Romans 15:4, "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."
- Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."
- Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."
- Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."
- Joshua 1:8, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."
- Psalm 19:7–11, "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward."
- Psalm 119:9, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word."
- Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- Hebrews 4:12–14, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow,

and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession."

- Deuteronomy 8:3, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."
- **Hebrews 4:12**, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."
- Isaiah 40:8, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."