

## **Pillars of Christian Discipleship-**

### **God's Word Draws Us into Relationship with Him**

#### **Bulletin**

1. The Bible helps us to know God for who He is, not who we would prefer Him to be. (*2 Tim. 3:16-17, Psalm 119:10, 38, Heb. 13:8*)

2. The Bible shows us God's law, which illuminates the gulf between us. (*Psalm 119:89-90, 160, 120, 5, 59*)

3. The Bible shows us what the only proper response to that gulf is. (*2 Kings 22:8-13*)

4. The Bible shows us all that God has done to close that gap between us. (*John 1:14*)

5. The Bible now breathes life into our relationship with God. (*Psalm 119:25-27, Eph. 1:3-6*)

#### **Small Group Questions**

- Ice-Breaker: When you buy something that requires assembly (like a piece of furniture), are you the type of person who reads the manual cover to cover first, or do you just start "winging it" and hope for the best? Why?
- In the sermon, we looked at different ways people approach the Bible, such as a textbook for facts, an "8 ball" for quick answers, inspiration to stay positive, or a checklist to feel good about themselves. Which of those approaches do you find yourself slipping into most often? (*Psalm 119:32*)

- The Psalmist describes the person who walks according to God's instruction as "happy" and "blessed," yet people often feel like God's rules get in the way of our happiness. Why do you think we struggle to believe that God's design is actually what leads to our deepest satisfaction? (Psalm 119:1-3)
- We talked about the danger of creating a "Personal Mascot" version of Jesus who always agrees with us and never challenges us. When was the last time you read something in the Bible that actually bothered you or disagreed with your current lifestyle? (Hebrews 13:8; Psalm 119:118)
- The sermon highlighted a major cultural tension: the world says the goal of life is to "be true to yourself," but the Bible says the goal is to "glorify God." In what areas of your life do you feel the most pressure to prioritize your own happiness over God's holiness? (Psalm 119:155, 191, 192)
- When King Josiah heard the words of the Law, he didn't just ask for a 10 point outline; he "tore his clothes" in grief and reverence. What keeps us from having that kind of raw, emotional response to God's Word today? (2 Kings 22:11; Psalm 119:120)
- We discussed the "Great Gulf" between God's perfection and our own brokenness. How does it change your view of your own "failures" to know that Jesus stepped into that gap and took the divine consequences we deserved? (Psalm 119:6, 258; John 1:14)
- What do you think it looks like to not just read the Bible, but read it in a way that breathes life into your relationship with God?
- If you started viewing the Bible as the "fuel and oxygen" for the fire of your relationship with God, what is one practical shift you could make in your daily routine to spend more time listening to Him? (Psalm 119:35, 37)