

CORE CLASSES

MEETING WITH GOD

MEETING WITH GOD IN HIS WORD: PART DEUX

I. Introduction

- Possible: Meeting with God is actually possible.
- Participation: Meeting with God is something in which we should participate.
- Plan: God has provided a plan for us to meet with Him through the Mediator, Jesus Christ.

Meeting With God: Daily time that we set aside for fellowship with God in His Word, in prayer and through the church so that we would know Him more, know ourselves in light of Him, and know the world according to God's perspective.

Bible Intake:

- Hearing
- Reading
- Studying
- Memorizing
- Meditating

II. Studying God's Word

If reading the Bible can be compared to cruising the width of a clear, sparkling lake in a motorboat, studying the Bible is like slowly crossing that same lake in a glass-bottomed boat. -Donald Whitney

A. How do we study God's Word?

- A heart reliant on the Holy Spirit for understanding
- A heart curious for understanding
- A Bible

B. H.E.A.R. Method

- **Highlight:** Read and observe everything in the passage.
 - Asking "who, what, when, where, why, and how" questions are the foundation of observing the passage and will help us to explain and apply the text better.
- **I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.** -Romans

- **Explain:** Based on your reading, discover what the passage means in its context.
 - Remember that context rules
 - Always seek the full counsel of God
 - Look for the single meaning of the passage
- **Apply:** Understand how the meaning of the passage affects your life.
 - **But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.** -James 1:22
- **Respond in Prayer:** Pray God's word back to him, asking to believe, share, and put the Bible into practice in your life and relationships.

Question: Which of the four steps (Highlighting, Explaining, Applying, Responding in Prayer) of Bible study do you find easiest or most difficult?

III. Memorizing God's Word

- Benefits of knowing God's Word
 - Victory over sin
 - Victory over Satan
 - Preparation for witnessing or counseling
- Struggles of knowing God's Word
 - What if I don't have a good memory?
 - What if I've never memorized scripture before?

IV. Meditating on God's Word

Question: What do you think of when you think of meditation?"

Eastern meditation is an attempt to empty the mind; Christian mediation is an attempt to fill the mind."
-Richard Foster

What happens in meditation is that we create the emotional and spiritual space which allows Christ to construct an inner sanctuary of the heart. -Richard Foster

Meditation is a holy exercise of the mind whereby we bring the truths of God to remembrance, and do seriously ponder upon them and apply them to ourselves. -Thomas Watson

Question: What are some other ways that you have found helpful to engage in meditation?

Jesus the Great Philosopher

During this core class, to supplement our time together, we invite you to read Jonathan Pennington's new book, **Jesus the Great Philosopher**. It not a long book and it pairs very well with what we will be talking about in Meeting with God. Consider the reading guide you received when arrived or online.