

Sunday, January 5, 2020 - "You Asked For It - Week 1 - Is the Bible True?" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Romans 14:1-3, 5, Romans 15:5-7, Job 36:26, Hebrews 4:12

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Ground rules for this series
 - 1) Be Civil (Philippians 2:3)
 - 2) Stay engaged
 - 3) No judgement (even when we differ)
- Romans 14:1-3, 5 - Romans 15:5-7 → Live in such harmony with one another, without judging
- The Bible is more than just a book BUT how do we know the Bible is true?
- The Bible is far different than other religious books
 - Written over 1500 years, 66 books, Over 40 authors
 - They all point to the birth/death/resurrection
 - it's over 99.5% accurate to the original manuscripts → what we have is what was intended
- What makes it true?
 - 300 prophecies in Old Testament about Jesus (with very specific details)
 - The amount of collusion between so many authors over so many years would have been incredible for it to have been made up or created
- 4 Possibilities: 1) It's a Fairy Tale 2) It's a coincidence 3) Jesus orchestrated it himself to fulfill prophecy 4) It's true
 - The Exodus points to Jesus
 - Daniel predicted very specific things about the rise and fall of the Roman empire
- Hebrews 4:12 - There's something different about the word of God...It has the power to transform us
- Test It! (if there are still questions about whether it's true)
- How do I find time for God?
 - You can't "find" time...it doesn't just happen
 - Relationship requires sacrifice...What am I doing to not do to spend time with God?
 - You can start with "15 minutes with God" - Read for 5 minutes - Journal for 5 minutes - Pray for 5 minutes
- About which translation
 - At Grace we use ESV (it's quite close to the actual text)
 - It's best to use more than one
 - A paraphrase (i.e the message) is different then a translation
- The Bible is the foundation for this whole series
 - 1) There is absolute truth
 - 2) The Bible is true and trustworthy
 - There is still an element of mystery
 - Job 36:26, Isaiah 55:8-9

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What does it mean to you that the Bible is true?
2. How has God used his word to transform you and change your life?
3. What does it mean for the word of God to be the foundation for not just this series but also your life?
4. How do you make sense of the idea that relationship and growing with God requires sacrifice?
5. How is God calling youth sacrifice in order to engage with Him and his word?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Luke 11 Tues: Luke 12 Wed: Luke 13 Thurs: Luke 14 Fri: Luke 15

Songs from the weekend: [Again I Say Rejoice - *Israel Houghton*] - [You Are My Joy - *Will Reagan*] - [Holy Spirit - *Jesus Culture*] - [Revelation Song - *Gateway Worship*]