



Lean In: The Why Behind The What

Message 2: Lean In To The Word

Announcements

2017 Fall Small Group Launch // The Fall semester launches the weekends of August 19-20 and August 26-27. Start thinking about your plans for the fall.

Warm-Up

Growing up share with the group the first time you learned about the Bible. Who introduced the Word to you? What impact did it have on your life at that time?

Today is our second week in series entitled Lean In. We will study and discuss why each message during the worship service is based on the Bible. Can we really trust the Word of God and apply it to our life on a daily basis?

Word

The Bible is our foundation as a Christian. When our foundation is even just a little off we start to see strange things happening in our house. In the same way, Jesus said in the *Sermon on the Mount*, don't build your life on the shifting sand, but build your life on the rock! There has always been a precedent throughout the Bible and Church History where the people of God gathered together to hear the Word of God in order to build their lives on the strong foundation of the Word of God. One of the greatest examples of this is found in the book of Nehemiah.

Read Nehemiah 8:5-8.

This is a beautiful picture of how to worship God together. Here is the pattern we find in this passage:

- They read the Word together, that's **Scripture**.
- The priests gave the 'sense', that's the **Observation**.
- The people gained understanding, that's the **Application**.

This is the pattern for why and how we study the Word the way we do at Church of the King.
Scripture => Observation => Application

Let's discuss practical ways to have the Bible as our foundation and why we come together on the weekends to worship God together.

1. Scripture.

Read Nehemiah 8:8a.

The Law in this verse is the Word of God. They built their life upon the Word of God. Share a time with the group where the scripture discussed in a worship service helped you practically the following week. Discuss the facts below on how we know we can trust Scripture.

- The Bible is the most accurately preserved and widely attested document of the ancient world.
- The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy shows Scripture's reliability.
- Archeology verifies the Scriptures.

2. Observation.

Read Nehemiah 8:8b.

Here in this passage we see that the priests helped make sense of the scripture. Where is your special spot to study the Bible during the week? What helps you understand the scripture? Here are some guidelines in understanding scripture:

- Who was writing this and to whom is it being written?
- What was going on in the culture when this was written?
- What was the struggle going on during the time of the writing?
- Why was it written?

3. Application.

Read Nehemiah 8:8c. & Matthew 7:24-27.

The Bible is the living Word of God. It is alive. It strengthens us. It changes and encourages us in practical ways. How can scripture help you during trials? How can it help you make decisions? Share a time with the group where scripture came alive and helped you make a choice that was life changing. When studying scripture and taking notes during the weekend messages at church ask yourself these questions:

- How does this Scripture apply to me?
- What situations in my life does this speak to?
- What does the Holy Spirit want me to know?
- What does the Holy Spirit want me to do?

Share with the group your time commitment in reading the Word this week. Ask for practical advice to keep this commitment.

Prayer

Thank the Lord for His precious Word that is for our daily walk with Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal and make clear to you the scriptures you read daily. Pray for specific needs of the group.