

Session 2 Viewer Guide

DISCUSS

Use the following questions to discuss the video teaching.

- 1) Have you ever heard the advice that you should preach the gospel to yourself daily? What did you understand that to mean?**

On the video Jen said preaching the gospel to yourself really means taking the message of grace and applying it to your daily life. One reason we fail to take the gospel into the whole of our experience is that we approach the Bible the wrong way. Many of us have been taught that the Bible is a guide book for life. Although the Bible contains abundant direction for our lives; that's not the primary reason it exists. The main point of the Bible isn't how to live but how to know God. We come to know God by the gospel, the central message of the Bible.

- 2) What happens to our spiritual lives when we reduce the Bible to a guidebook for life instead of a means to know God?**

The first of Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses says, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Mt 4: 17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." 1 When we encounter a transcendent vision of God, we should walk away worshiping. Coming face-to-face with the One who's perfectly holy and good should lead us to repent and receive forgiveness and grace. Realizing how unlike God we are should move us to repent.

- 3) Why should people who've believed the gospel regularly repent? Why might continual repentance be an unpopular idea today?**

Repentance is an unpopular notion today because it means something essential to our nature needs to be corrected. Such a question strikes at the heart of a world that's asking, "Who am I?". One idea J. D. and Jen discussed on the video was that the indicatives of Scripture (statements of who God is and who we are) should lead us to the imperatives of Scripture (how we should live). A better question to ask than "Who am I?" is "Who is Jesus?" Then we should ask, "How should we live in light of who He is?" We can't know who we are until we understand who God is.

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4) Read 1 John 4:19. Why does knowing that God loved us lead us to love Him and feel accepted by Him?

As J. D. said in video session 1, "The fire to do in the Christian life comes from being soaked in the fuel of what has been done." What has been done for us in the gospel frees us to obey God's commands because we're no longer motivated by obligation but by the joy of being known, loved, and accepted by God. Gospel change empowers grace-driven effort toward obedience.

5) What is it about us that causes us to seek approval through rule following? How is grace-driven effort entirely different from rule following?

On the video J. D. and Jen both expressed their personal struggles as rule followers. This struggle likely resonated with many of you. God isn't seeking just obedience. He's seeking a whole new kind of obedience. Gospel motivated obedience grows from desire. We pursue righteous works because we crave righteousness. This craving comes from the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

6) Read Romans 8:14-16. How does the Holy Spirit help us understand that we're loved by God? How does this knowledge help us live the gospel in our daily lives?

I hope you've seen in this session that gospel change happens as we behold the face of Jesus, receive approval from Him, and live with Spirit-enabled intentionality and effort. By God's grace, the way these truths are incorporated into our lives is through continual contact with God in His Word. Reading the Bible shouldn't be a burden or a chore. Instead, it should be a means for us to see and know God better.

7) Why is consistent Bible reading essential for gospel change? Do you have a plan to spend dedicated time in the Scriptures each week? If not, who might be able to help you read the Bible?