

20/20 Embracing a New Vision
A New Vision for Scripture- Week #6
Small Group Notes
May 21 and 24

Main Point: To embrace a new vision about Scripture is to prioritize its teaching and authority in our lives as we gain a new perspective¹

Introduction:

One of the things I remember about going to the optometrist is the moment when you are looking at the different letters on the wall and they are putting different lenses in front of you. They ask which one is clearer, one or two?

How is the moment of our salvation a change of perspective in everything? Why should we not look at things the way the world does?

Has there been a time that you stood out different from friends or co-workers because you obeyed God's Word instead of what the world was doing?

For today's discussion we are going to reflect and evaluate our attitude towards God's Word in our lives. The Bible is God's special revelation of Himself to us and it serves as an authority in our lives. Therefore, to embrace a new vision of Scripture is to put it in the proper place of authority and to see how it changes our perspective.

To begin read Luke 24:13-35.

Discuss: EMBRACING A NEW VISION TAKES:

1. Being honest about your doubts. Read Luke 24:21-25.

- Jesus doesn't toss you out if you have doubts
- Being honest about your doubts can lead to a whole new vision of the Bible.

Explain: The men described Jesus as "a Prophet powerful in action and speech" (v. 19). However, they had expected more from Him; they thought He was the Messiah, the powerful ruler who God promised to send to rescue Israel from their oppression. When Jesus died on the cross, so did their hope in Him and in their deliverance. The disciples found themselves in an uncertain situation. They had witnessed the death of their teacher, but they also heard rumors of an empty grave.

How did Jesus combat their confusion? What does that mean to you about how Jesus helps us in times of confusion?

What are times that we neglect to listen to Scripture? What does it mean that our problem isn't with the accuracy of Scripture as much as it points our problems in our lives?

Share of a time that you read Scripture and it revealed a problem area and how you took action to align yourself to God's Word.

Family Talk: The picture of listening to God's Word is a lot like learning to walk straight without being distracted. Put some tape on the floor in a straight line and take turns trying to walk along the line without being distracted.

2. Learn to read the Bible as His Story. Read Luke 24:27.

- Embracing a new vision for the Bible takes a lens change.

Explain: Jesus took the time to share about how all the Old Testament was not about obeying just the law, instead it pointed to Himself. Jesus' actions further reveal how the story is not just about Him, but as John 1 affirms, Jesus is the Word. Then the more that we see Scripture about Jesus instead of ourselves, it helps us to embrace the removal of the old lens of self to the new lens seeing God's glory.

Read the following passages and share how these speak to Jesus: Genesis 3:15; Psalm 22:1-13; Isaiah 53; Zechariah 2:1-10.

Why can it be destructive to try and read the Bible with self-centered motives?

How can reading the Bible for God's plan to be revealed instead of our plan help us during these days?

Family Talk: Show your children a manual for how to put together an item in your house. State: it would be difficult and virtually impossible to put together different things without a manual. This is what happens when we try to live our lives without the Bible, we try to put it together and it ends up falling apart.

3. Allow the Word to engage your heart. Read Luke 24:32-35

- An old lens ultimately doesn't engage your heart but embracing a new vision sets your heart on fire!

Explain: Certainly, Jesus' disappearance stunned the two disciples. Upon reflection, they said, "Weren't our hearts ablaze within us while He was talking with us on the road?" The journey's enlightening conversation warmed their hearts in a unique way. At the time, they had failed to understand why. Now the fog of doubt gave way to spiritual

insight. The disciples realized that clarity came as Jesus explained the Scriptures to them. His words sank into their open hearts, and they acknowledged Jesus as Lord.

What is significant about how the disciples responded upon realizing who Jesus was? How does that challenge you in responding to His Word?

In the sermon, Brady mentioned the characteristics of the old lens (head knowledge) versus the new lens (engaged heart). Why is knowing the Lord through the Scriptures beyond just knowing facts *about* Him?

When has there been times that you tried to put on your old lens of Scripture instead of embracing the new?

Family Talk: Find an old pair of glasses or sunglasses. Show your children that when we are saved we no longer look at the Bible with our old lenses (take the old pair of glasses off) but rather we see the world through the Bible (pretend that the Bible are your glasses) and look around while keeping the Bible in front of your face. It illustrates to not try and see the world for ourselves but to see things as God wants us to see them.

Do:

Set aside time each day this week to read God's Word. Read one chapter a day as a way to start. Ask the questions: God what are you saying to me? What should I do about what I have read?

Try to memorize a verse of Scripture this week from the Old Testament and New Testament. Take turns as a family saying the Scripture each night before dinner.

Close in prayer, asking God to give you a renewed desire to know God's Word and to know Jesus more in your daily life.