



ABIDE The CONNECTION

ICEBREAKER

Share with the group a scripture that God has been bringing to your mind recently that you may be memorizing, meditating or ruminating on. Share why you think God is bringing it to your attention.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 4:11-12 — *For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- You can be gifted to lead, called to lead but if you are not fruitful in your life in the areas of Christ's character you will fail. William Carey said, *"I'm not afraid of failure; I'm afraid of succeeding at things that don't matter."*

Can you recall a time when you discovered this statement to be true. Can you recall and share of a time that succeeding at things that did not matter impacted your life?

- **Read:** Isaiah 55:11
Matthew 4:4
John 6:51

We must personally connect with God's Word for it prospers us.

How has having God's Word in your life prospered you? What differences have you noticed in others that connect with God's Word?

What good has come into your life from reading God's Word? Make a list. Share with the group one of your responses.

- **Read:** 1 Peter 2:2

Spiritual growth is not accidental. You must intend to grow - you must make a choice to grow. We must personally connect with God's Word to allow it to grow us.

Share an example from your life where (choose one):

- a) **The Word changed your perspective, renewed your mind, motivating you to re order your priorities in life**
- b) **You let the Word of God penetrate your heart by meditating/ memorizing scripture preventing the devil from snatching the Word from your heart**
- c) **The Word sharpened your witness and/or ministry making you fruitful**

- **Read:** John 6:63
Joshua 1:8
Psalm 1:1-3

If want to succeed in life, according to God, you must meditate on His words, store them in your mind, memorize them and you will not wither, rather, you succeed and prosper. Our character is transformed (attitudes, emotions, speech, & behaviours) by FIRST renewing our minds. We have to be intentional about changing our thoughts.

What practice works best for you to connect with God's Word?

GROUP CHALLENGE

Divide into smaller groups of 2-3 people. Set a time limit of 3 minutes. Write down all the verses you have memorized that you still remember. Bonus points given for remembering scripture reference. (Tip: Think of songs you know with scripture). Then share with whole group.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Read Ephesians 4:22-24. Take time and ask God to renew your mind and ask Him to speak to you through His Word. Memorize the scripture that He directs you to.

MEMORY VERSE

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will. — Romans 12:2

PRAISE REPORTS / PRAYER REQUESTS