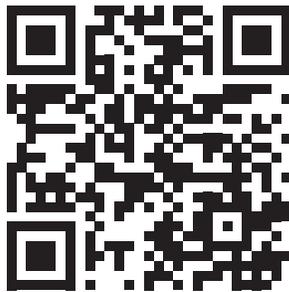


Volunteer

As you pray about activating and engaging in the church as part of the body of Christ, consider signing up to serve as a volunteer! It is an honor and true blessing to serve others and be an active part of the mission of the church. We currently have many areas in need!



Bible Study Sign ups

Women's and Men's Bible studies are gearing back up! Sign up today. They will begin on Sept 6.



WHY WE LIVE BY THE BIBLE...

ISAIAH 1:18-20

There are many people who sit in the seats of churches who call themselves Christians but aren't living by the Bible. I don't say that to condemn you or make you think of the list of sins from your past that the devil likes to remind you of. Because I'm not talking about a set of rules to follow, or even a set of principles. While rules and principles are good to guide us and our behavior, what God wants is every part of our lives. He wants us to live under His authority. But what does that mean? It means to daily surrender every aspect of yourself and your life to God by living a faith-filled relationship with Jesus and being obedient to His Word. The authority is in the person, His son, Jesus Christ.

The Bible helps us establish and grow in that relationship and that is why we study it unlike any other book. That is why we honor it unlike any other book. The Bible is the very Word of God to all of mankind. And as we read it, God speaks personally to you and to me. We are invited into a deeper relationship and conversation with God himself as He says, "Come reason with me." in Isaiah 1:18. What an amazing honor that is!

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

Pray as a group for God to reveal in each of us the areas of our life we need to surrender more fully to God.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

- Isaiah 45:5 "I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God."
- Isaiah 66: 1-2 "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."

1. Sometimes because of our past or upbringing, the idea of living under authority causes us to hesitate. **Share a time when you submitted something to God, that in the flesh, you didn't want to, but how God in the end blessed your obedience.**

2. Take turns reading the following Scriptures: Matthew 29:18, John 3:35, and John 17:1-3

How do these Scriptures show how God has located His authority in the person of Jesus instead of in principles to follow. And how does that affect how you live your life as a Christian?

3. Pastor Derek outlined four ways that we are drawn to God's authority and ultimately to obedience through Christ. They were the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Ascension. **First, explain what each of those things are. And then share how each of these draws us into relationship.**



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.



REACH (5 min)

We never want to be in a place where our relationship with God is one of convenience. Allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart this week and devote every sphere of your life to obedience in Christ and as you make that choice to daily surrender all to God, make note of the changes you notice in your attitude and your relationships with others.