

## How to REAP in a DGroup

### READ the passage out loud

- Compare in multiple translations if time allows

### EXAMINE the passage

- Insert yourself into the story
- Make general observations of the text.
- Don't be concerned with "right" or "wrong" answers yet, allow some freedom to inhabit the text. Examine it from different viewpoints, characters, etc. In other words, feel free to use your "sanctified imagination" to help you imagine yourself in the text.
- Don't be afraid to ask tough questions of the text.

### APPLY the text

- Specifically, how can you apply this text to your life in the next 24 to 48 hours?
- Be careful to apply the text to both your actions and your heart. Use questions like:
  - How does the passage uncover heart idols that we turn to instead of Jesus?
  - How does the passage lead me to repentance or belief?
  - How does this increase my knowledge of God's holiness?
  - How does this deepend my awareness of my own sinfulness?
  - How does the passage lead me to respond in faith or action?
- Make a point to talking through how this text points us to Jesus. We believe the Bible ultimately points us to Jesus because it's in him we see the fullness of God and his work on our behalf. While it is useful and beneficial to take practical steps in obedience, we ultimately become what we behold. Therefore, we always want to behold Jesus and as we behold him from Genesis to Revelation, we will be transformed from one degree of glory to another.
  - To illustrate, here are a few helpful ways to look for Christ in all of Scripture:
    - *Consider Genre*: Jesus is the fulfiller of the Law, the cross is the wisdom of God (like Proverbs), he's the true king and true prophet of Israel.
    - *Consider themes*: kingdom (Jesus is the king), covenant (Jesus fulfills both love and law in his death), presence of God/worship (Jesus is God with us), Rest/Sabbath (in Christ we have rest and acceptance), justice/judgment (Jesus was the Judge judged in our place), etc.
    - *Consider major figures*: prophets, priests, kings, judges, social and moral "outsiders" – Adam, Abel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Job, David, Esther, Jonah, etc.
    - *Consider major images*: bronze serpent in the wilderness, Sabbath and Jubilee, Bread of Presence, light stand, Temple, etc,
  - Once you understand the Christ is the end of the story, you can't help but see that every text is ultimately about Jesus. Wherever you're reading in the biblical storyline you can pick up the theme of the text and trace it to its ultimate end in Christ.

### PRAY

- Thank the Lord for the wonderful gift of his word – his willingness to make himself known to us through his words and his work in Christ.
- Ask the Lord to help you live out of the grace we have receive because of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Because of Jesus, we can go forth into the world confident of our acceptance before God and thus able to freely serve God and our neighbor through our vocations.