



NOVEMBER 5

THE GOSPEL OF GOD

THE GREAT ADVANTAGE

GETTING STARTED

This weekend we continued our series, *The Gospel of God*, and learned that the Scriptures give us a great advantage in life because they are “the very words of God” and they help us “chart a successful course” in life.

Before you start the study, take a few moments to reflect on these verses.

*Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies. I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts. **Psalm 119:97-100***

Take a moment and thank God for the gift of His Word. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate the Scriptures to you as you work your way through this study.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. As you think back through the message, what one thing did the Holy Spirit highlight for you?
2. This weekend we learned that God’s Word gives us a great advantage in life. In your story, how has obeying God’s Word resulted in protection, truth, guidance, or blessing?
3. This weekend we read about God’s faithfulness to His people in Romans 3:1-9. Reread Romans 3:1-9.
 - a. Verses 3-4 demonstrate God’s faithfulness in keeping His promises. How does God’s faithfulness despite Israel’s failures encourage you in your own relationship with God?
 - b. How were people twisting Paul’s gospel in verses 5-7?
 - c. What is Paul’s concluding indictment in verse 9?
4. The Scriptures are much more than a collection of ancient books, they are very words of God.
 - a. Read Matthew 5:17-18. How did Jesus view the Scriptures? What kind of authority did they carry in His life?
 - b. Read Matthew 4:1-11. What advantage did Jesus have during His temptation because He knew His Father’s words?

- c. How does your view of the Scriptures compare with Jesus' view? What are the Scriptures to you? How much authority does God's Word carry in your life?
5. One of the principles that Michael taught us this weekend is that "*The Scriptures ... Chart Our Course To Life.*" If a friend or family member wanted to understand how God's Word has led to transformation in your life, what would you say? How would you describe the process to them?
6. Read Psalm 119:18. What is the psalmist praying for? How would you paraphrase this prayer in your own words?
7. The Holy Spirit's job is to illuminate Scripture to us, but for Him to do that for us we have to be in a position of being ready to listen. Is your heart in a place of being hungry for God and ready to listen? How so?
8. Often as Christians we wish that God would speak to us more often. But the fact is, God *has* spoken to us—He even wrote it down for us to make sure that His words are clear. In light of this, Michael asked us an important question, "*Are You Taking Advantage ... Of The Great Advantage?*"
- a. Stepping back and looking at your life honestly, do your rhythms and schedules reflect the fact that you believe the Bible is God's very word? What does your time with the Word look like? What does your time with God look like? How much time and energy are you investing in God's Word?
- b. Read Joshua 1:8. Michael showed us four steps to help us be prosperous and successful:
- **Read it** ... *Keep It Always on Your Lips.*
 - **Reflect On It** ... *Meditate on it.*
 - **Make this a priority** ... *Meditate ... Day and Night.*
 - **Obey it** ... *Be Careful to Do Everything It Says.*
- Which of the four steps would you like to grow in? How so?
- c. Michael shared that sometimes, when we are young in our faith, we can misunderstand the Scriptures as being restrictive & rules-based. Are there any false perspectives you might be projecting onto the Scriptures that are inhibiting you from experiencing the beauty and power of God's Word? Explain.
- d. Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit if there are any steps you can take to grow in God's Word. Share what the Holy Spirit reveals to you with your Life Group.