

CITY CHURCH DNA DEVOTIONAL – WEEK 5

DNA Day 25 - God's Word and you part 1

For the next two weeks in our DNA devotionals we'll be focusing on the value of God's Word and what it means for you, your friends and family, your workplace, our church, our city and the wider world.

Today, we're asking the question: **what does the value of God's Word mean for you, and how does it shape your walk with Jesus?**

When we talk about The Word of God it usually means one of two things: the Bible, which is God's Word written down for us in human language; and Jesus, God's Son, who is called 'The Word'.

Both these definitions are about God's communication of Himself. The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that God's ultimate act of sharing Himself with us is in the sending of Jesus:

*In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. **Hebrews 1:1-2.***

For those who didn't get to meet Jesus in the flesh, God spoke through human prophets and apostles guided by the Holy Spirit, all testifying about His Son, as Jesus said:

*You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me. **John 5:39.***

When we read the Bible, then, we get to encounter Jesus, who is the Word of God. Filled and guided by His Spirit, we learn more about Him and are changed by Him as we read.

Pray

Holy Father, thank you for your glorious Son, the exact representation of your being. Give me grace to see You through Him and to see myself through Him as your child.

DNA Day 26 - God's Word and you part 2

How does God's Word define and shape your purpose?

The fact that God has chosen to communicate Himself to us at all shows us the immense value that He places on us, both collectively and individually. As God reveals Himself to us, our ultimate purpose is to look to Him, to become more like Him, and to glorify Him forever.

*And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. **2 Corinthians 3:18.***

This will happen fully when we see Jesus face-to-face. But, because Jesus is alive and has sent us His Spirit, we experience the glory of the Lord even now as we see Him through His Word. That is why Christians read the Bible so much. Through it, we see God Himself in Jesus, and are changed.

Whatever we are called to do in our personal lives and in our church, we all share a common purpose: to know God, leading us by His Spirit to Jesus through His Word.

Pray

Merciful and Gracious Father, change us to be more like You as we read, mark and inwardly digest your Word. Lead us by Your Spirit, glorifying and being glorified by Christ Jesus our Lord.

DNA Day 27 - God's Word for friends and family part 1

Having explored what God's Word means for our own identity and purpose, today we're asking: **what does God's Word mean for your friends and family?**

We have seen that Jesus is the Word of God. The opening of the Gospel of John takes us through this in detail, with a crescendo in verse 14:

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14.***

That same Word through whom the world was created in Genesis 1 has now become flesh and blood. In God, word, thought and action are entirely consistent. Unlike us, He doesn't say one thing and do something else. So, when we see Jesus, God's Word, we don't just see someone who is a bit like God: we see God-in-Himself.

This is who our friends and family need to see. One reason we dwell in God's Word is for the sake of those we love. The more we see Jesus, the more we'll love Him, be amazed by His glory and want to share Him with people we love.

Pray

Lord Jesus, we know that it's only You that can save those we love. Change us to be like you as we read about you in your Word and as we talk about you, save those who hear.

DNA Day 28 - God's Word for friends and family part 2

How does God's Word shape how we relate to our friends and family?

How do the people we know view the Bible? Probably not as God's Word. Commonly, people see it as a boring book of rules or a collection of fairy stories. So, how do we introduce people to the Scriptures?

Quoting random verses at them is not the best way! That's not how the Bible is meant to be read.

Remember, the Bible is the Word of God by which the Holy Spirit reveals the Word of God, Jesus, to us. So, starting with the Gospels is a great idea. They are the biographies of Jesus at the beginning of the New Testament, and reading them helps people to understand that the Bible is about Christ.

*But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. **John 20:31.***

In the Gospels we are confronted with Jesus' teaching, character, death and resurrection in the most straightforward way that the Bible gives. Next time you are asked what you believe, suggest that someone read Matthew or Luke —and see what happens!

Pray

Thank you Father that You have given me your Son to be my Saviour and Lord. Help me to introduce Him to those around me.

DNA Day 29 - God's Word for your workplace part 1

Over the past few days, we've seen what God's Word means for us, our friends and our family. Today we're exploring how God's Word affects our sense of identity in the workplace.

There's a lot of practical wisdom for living and working in the Bible. The Old Testament wisdom books like Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes are all about how we live well. The Bible is much more than a philosophy book, but it certainly contains lots of writing about how to live 'the Good Life'.

The book of Proverbs gives practical wisdom for work:

*All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. **Proverbs 14:23.***

This is not a law or a promise, but a proverb: gathered wisdom about the way the world normally works. We shouldn't over-interpret it and think, for example, that all poverty is caused by idleness. That's clearly not true. It is true, however, that in our own lives, hard work normally pays off.

Thinking with wisdom takes time and practice. It's not about easy answers but long-term faithfulness to the Word applied to the different situations we face.

Pray

Holy Father, thank you for the gift of work. Give us grace to apply Your Word to the situations we face, and let us work always for Your glory.

DNA Day 30 - God's Word for your workplace part 2

We thought yesterday how the wisdom of Proverbs can apply to us at work. Today, we'll turn to another Old Testament wisdom book, Ecclesiastes, to help us answer the question: **how does God's Word shape our sense of purpose in the workplace?**

The Bible is big and contains lots of alleys and corners that you maybe haven't ventured down very much. One is Ecclesiastes, which can be seen as quite negative, alienating and even hard to square with the rest of Scripture. On work, the writer says:

*All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless. **Ecclesiastes 2:23.***

Which is it? Does hard work profit us like Proverbs says, or is work meaningless? One answer lies in Jesus. In Jesus, hard work is rewarding as we walk with Him, whatever the immediate outcome. On the other hand, if we prioritise work over Jesus, we'll find only futility and grief in the end.

The written Word of God always points us to the incarnate Word of God, Jesus. As we walk with Him in work, family and the rest of our lives, we fulfil our purpose to glorify Him.

Pray

Heavenly Father, give us wisdom to understand Your Word and may the Holy Spirit lead us to Jesus as we work for Your glory.