

HEAVEN, HELL AND OTHER HOT TAKES

Wholly Scripture | Discussion Notes

This week we're focusing on the Bible, especially the tough bits. Start by going straight into groups of 3 and 4 so that everyone has a chance to talk and share how they feel about the Bible.

- What 3 words would you use to describe your relationship with the Bible?
- What aspects or parts of the Bible do you find difficult?
- How do you respond to the tough bits of the Bible? Do you try to just believe it regardless of how you feel about it? Do you avoid those bits?

Read through Luke 24:13-35.

Sam said that if we're going to learn how to read the Bible we need to **read it as it was written**.

- What do you think Sam means by 'read it as it was written'?
- Do you agree that it is important that we understand the genres, context, etc. of each book of the Bible when reading it? If so, why does it matter?
- Do you have any tips of things you've found helpful in the past to understand a bit more about each book of the Bible?

Luke 24:27 says, "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to the, what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." Here Jesus teaches the disciples that in order to read the Bible well they need to **read it to find Jesus**.

- How can we read the Bible to look for Jesus?
- Sam said that reading the Bible to find Jesus helps explain the rest of the Bible and helps us understand some of the difficult parts. Why do you think is?

In Luke 24:32 the disciples realise they were talking to Jesus and say "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us." The experience of the disciples shows us that when we read the Bible it can be more than just about head-knowledge; the disciples have a powerful experience of Jesus through the Bible.

- Have you had an experience when you feel like you met Jesus by the reading the Bible?
- How can we read the Bible in a way that helps us have 'burning hearts'? Are there practical things we can do to help us experience Jesus in this way? What stops us from reading the Bible like this?

Spend the last 10 minutes together praying for one another in smaller groups. You may want to pray for a deeper experience in reading the Bible, there may be some people who feel hurt by the Bible or how it has been used, or you may just want to pray for some motivation to develop the habit of reading it!