

ICE BREAKER: As a child what family rule did you love to break? Why?

ENCOUNTER:

It is important that we encourage each other in our Bible reading. This is a key way that we encounter God in our lives. Share what have you been reading in your Bible and what has God been speaking into your life from His word?

FOCUS: Jesus and the Bible: Matt 5:17-20

Q1: Why would anyone have thought that Jesus had come to “abolish the law and the prophets.”

Q2: What two things does Jesus say his disciples should do with the OT?

Q3: Given the enthusiasm of the scribes and Pharisees for keeping the law, how can the Christians righteousness exceed theirs?

Q4: What is authority? Mark suggested in his message that many Christians today struggle to accept the authority of the Bible in their lives, do you think he was right to say this? Here is a quote from J.I Packer that might help you in your discussions “Built into Christianity is a principle of authority. This is because Christianity is a revealed religion. It claims that God has acted to make known his mind and will, and therefore his revelation has authority for our lives.”

ACTIVATION:

The sermon of the mount challenges us to live a different life. Put some music on and give time to think/meditate through the following

If you were to do something this week that showed something in your character that is not yet whole and if you were to do something this week that you know is not right what is it likely to be, where are you most likely to fall and what is it that is going to lead you there....for example maybe gossiping or lying or something else.....

Having thought about this what is it you need Jesus to do in you, what would it look like for you to live a different way, for you not to fall for you to resist and change? Bring this to Jesus knowing that He is your strength ask Him to help you in whatever this matter, situation might be, remember He loves to help us, this is partly why God the Father sent the Holy Spirit into our lives.