Part 1: Starting Point

Sermon Notes
Text: Matthew 5:17-19; John 5:39-40; 2 timothy 3:16

Intro:

Places to start with the Bible:

i.   Assess it's reliability
ii. Investigate the "weird" stuff
iii. Examine its claims

All of these are important endeavours, but sometimes represent the wrong heart attitude.

The best place to start - ***Start with Jesus!***

Matthew 5:17-19

In Jesus, God accomplished everything that was promised in the Old Testament.

John 5:39-40

Start with Jesus. End with Jesus. And in the middle, keep your focus on Jesus.

The purpose of the Bible is not to inform you; it's to transform you.

2 Timothy 3:16
- Teaching
- Rebuking
- Correcting
- Training
- Thoroughly Equipped

The Bible helps shape a human being into what it was truly meant to be.

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What is your favourite book (non-Bible book)? Why?

Study & Discussion:

1. What difficulties do you face when it comes to the Bible (fear, confusion, boredom, skepticism, lack of understanding, etc.)?

2. Jesus responded to people who thought the Bible wasn't very important (Matthew 5:17-19), and people who were obsessed with the Bible (John 5:39-40). Which end of that spectrum do you tend to find yourself on? What would Jesus be calling you to do about that? How can we make our Bible reading about Jesus, rather than ourselves?

3. Read 2 Timothy 3:16. What is the Bible "useful" for? Have you experienced any of these things?

Application:

1. Think about your experiences with the Bible. How was it used in your earliest church experiences? In your home? Where are you right now in your practice of reading it? How did you get there?

2. Find some time this week (at least 10-15 minutes). Start with prayer. Ask God to give you a love for the Bible, and to use the Bible to transform your life. Then spend some time reading it. Don't focus on collecting information. Prayerfully invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you, and begin shaping you through what you read.

Prayer: