



## the prepwork

### Study

#### MAIN THING

If we don't love God with our minds, we won't love Him with at all

#### SCRIPTURE

John 14:23-24, 1 John 2:3-6, Proverbs 3:5-8, Psalm 119:36-37

#### ICEBREAKER

Everyone has interests as a kid; sports, hobbies, celebrities, etc. What was something you were really interested in as a kid? How invested were you in that interest? How much did you study and know about it?

#### OPENING THOUGHT

In the greatest commandment, Jesus tells us to "Love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength" (Mark 12:28-30). Study of the Word of God is what begins all of that. All action, feeling, and beliefs start in the mind. If we get our thinking right, the rest will follow. If we love God with our minds, our hearts, souls, and strength will follow.

About 90% of our behavior is habit. Habits are formed in the mind by what we repeatedly do. Imagine a path through the wilderness. It is much easier to walk a well-worn trail than a place without a trail at all. What we study lays down pathways in our minds, so that when confronted with situations or challenges, we move to those paths. But what are we studying? What we are studying will determine our habits, which in turn will determine our behavior. That behavior, in turn, will change our hearts.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. When you truly love someone, at what lengths will you go to know as much as you can about them? How should that affect our study of God's Word? Read John 14:23-24 and 1 John 2:3-6. What do these verses say about that? What affect does scripture have on our love for God?
3. When you spend a lot of time with people, does the way they see the world begin to shape the way you do? How would studying scripture have that same affect? What do Proverbs 3:5-8 and Psalm 119:36-37 say about that? How should scripture shape our worldview?

#### LIFE APPLICATION

The study of scripture is vital to the spiritual health of all Christians. It's so easy to be led astray by other things that can cause us to lose track of the goal set before us. Are you someone who has trouble making time for scripture? Are you struggling with where to start? Here's a suggestion for this week. Get the Bible app for your smart phone, wake up a few minutes early each day, and click on the "Open Story" button at the top of the main screen of that app. That will take you through about a 10 minute study of the verse of the day. That's a start. From there, you can find a plethora of studies to do. It really just takes some intentionality to make it happen. So make it happen.

#### CHALLENGE

Thankfully, a big part of the community group experience is study. If you are going through these questions, you are doing that very thing as a group. Challenge each other to download the questions in advance of your scheduled meeting, and have them answer the questions BEFORE they arrive. It could kick start your group's need for more study, and it will enhance your discussion times.