

## Community Group Questions

1. How do you feel about your Biblical Knowledge?
2. What are some things you can do to learn more?
3. What are some questions that you have about the Bible?
4. How has your faith grown in the past year? What are some things that have helped you grow?

The first thing I would like to do is define faith biblically because in this series we are going to deal with our “Faith Problems”

*Hebrew 11:1 says Now **faith** is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

So in other words your faith is “a confidence that what you believe is true and you feel so attached to that it impacts the way you live”

So a “Faith Problem” is something that is standing in the way of you believing in a truth or acting on that belief.

The first “Faith Problem” we will deal with in our 6 week series to kick off 2015 is...**Ignorance, more specifically Biblical Ignorance.**

If you are Biblically Ignorant then you will not believe the whole truth of the Scriptures and therefore you will not act on those truths.

Today we will learn about the **Dangers of Biblical Ignorance and how to Combat Biblical Ignorance.**

The difference between ignorance and stupidity

Ignorance: Lacking in knowledge, information or training; unlearned.

Stupidity: Lack of intelligence, understanding, reason, wit, or sense.

This is why if you watch a political debate a candidate can say something like “I was ignorant of that” but you would rarely here them say “I am stupid”

God does not want us to be Biblically Ignorant and in fact the Scriptures actually say in *Romans 2:15* *People show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness...*

God is so concerned that we are not Biblically Ignorant that He implants His moral law in our hearts. That explains why even when civilizations that have no exposure to the Bible often have laws parallel to what is taught in God's Word. God placed His moral law on our hearts. So it is important to God...why?

Lets start with the...

**Dangers of Biblical Ignorance** (why this is such a faith problem)

**-Leads us astray.** *Victor Cousin the French Philosopher in the early 1800's said "If ignorance is bliss, there should be more happy people."*

The problem with biblical ignorance is it can lead you down the wrong path and there is no bliss or blessing in that.

*In \*Romans 10:1-4* Paul is speaking about Israel being ignorant of the "righteousness of God" or in other words truly understanding who God is and what he has done. Israel had a zeal for God but it was a works based righteousness, which was dependent on how good they were so therefore it was not really focused on the true God, Jesus Christ. It was focused on the people of Israel, so Paul says my prayer for them is that they may be saved.

So their biblical ignorance was leading them astray, they knew the Word but they misunderstood it.

How about you? Do you think you know God because you go to church or are a pretty good person? You know the commands and you try real hard to do the right thing? You love God and think that you are earning your salvation. Don't be ignorant of what the Bible

says...GOSPEL you can't be good enough but the good news is you don't need to be good enough.

Or maybe it's a different type of Biblical ignorance that is leading you astray, maybe you are just hard toward God and His Word and in ignorance you think there is a better way or that Jesus is not the only way. *Ephesians 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.*

The second danger of biblical ignorance is that it..

**-Brings us harm.** The proverbs are filled with this "if you lack wisdom there will be consequences"

Things are just not going to go well. The Bible is a prescription for life and how to live life. If you continue to live life in ignorance of what the Bible says or ignoring what it says you will not see blessings in your life.

*Proverbs 15:32 says that if you ignore instruction you hate yourself*

Romans 13 also reminds us when we do right we need not fear any authorities above us.

**-Leads others astray.** When I turned 18 I got a tattoo, a short time after I went to youth group and a mom said that it was sin

Me being Biblically Ignorant was like "wait what"

Thankfully I had a Godly Youth Pastor who when I asked him told me the truth about what the Bible said

Lev 19:28 is the only passage that may seem to condemn tattooing.

The context of the verse is the Levitical law which we do not observe as Christians and more specifically in this passage, God saying to the Israelites to stay away from the practices the surrounding people

groups use in worship. Such as cutting body for the dead, tattooing yourself, eat anything with blood or cutting the ends of your beard. What I came across was another kind of Biblical Ignorance. Have you ever heard a saying like “he or she knows just enough to be dangerous”?

These are people that know a few things here and there and often interpret them wrong or use them out of context.

Think about this...what if in my immaturity and Biblical ignorance I said “I am out of here, this place is weird”, Or felt like “I don’t belong at this church” because of how I was humiliated or I believed what she said and had no clarification on what the Bible really said about Tattoos.

Bottom line is her Biblical Ignorance could have led me astray and away from hearing the Good News about Jesus. Even if it was a sin the way she handled the issue was not with “gentleness and respect” as 1 Peter 3:15 tells us to do.

*Mark 9:42 “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.*

Which brings us to our last danger...

**-Harms the work of the Gospel** \*1 Peter 3:15 Be ready to give an answer. In 2 Timothy 4:14-15 Paul warns against people who harm the spread of the Gospel

So knowing these dangers how do we combat Biblical Ignorance in our lives? **Combatting Biblical Ignorance**

**-Commit to worship every week** Hebrews 10:25

I have had people say things like...we can worship at home or out in field somewhere...that’s great, but it is not a substitute for corporate

worship. Corporate worship is taught in the Scriptures, Old and New Testament.

Think about it this way Jesus went to the Temple on the Sabbath to worship and guess what? He knew all the problems and issues, He knew the Pharisees and Sadducees were hypocrites. But he still went.

You have probably heard statistics saying that less people each year are attending church services. I just recently read an article that actually said that it is not that less people are going to church, its that people that go to church are going to church less so it actually brings the average church attendance down.

Think about it this way...if you attend church once a month...12 times a year. What are you communicating to your children if you are parent? Church is like going shopping at the mall, we go on occasion.

If you are a parent or a grandparent, think about the next generation...what do you want to pass down? In our society we focus on sports, education and enriching our children. But when it comes to Biblical instruction...well that's not that important.

I say this all the time "draw a line in the sand" my family is going to be different we are going to commit. In 2015 we are going to try our best to be consistent.

If you don't you will stay Biblically Ignorant and so will your children.

**-Have a teachable heart \*1 Peter 5:5**

As a pastor I don't expect people to remember everything they are taught but what I do expect is that you look at our time together as Biblical training and the things you learn to become part of who you are and how you live. We should come with the posture and attitude of "what do I need to learn?"

*Ben Franklin "Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn."*

Being teachable is a maturity issue, the most immature people are the people that think they don't need to learn anything.

*Mark Twain "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."*

Sometimes in life our own ignorance is revealed to us when become more mature.

### **-Learn on your own**

*GK Chesterton "Without education, we are in a horrible and deadly danger of taking educated people seriously."*

We don't follow one person, we follow Jesus. We never want to fall into the trap of saying if this pastor or bible teacher or author said it, it must be true. The apostle Paul said to the believers in Berea to check the Scriptures to see if his teaching was true.

*Proverbs 18:15 An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.*

We have so many tools at our disposal we should use them to gain knowledge wisdom and understanding. Go to our resource link on our website...download our church app

Take ODB or DFD. Take the Sunday School challenge with your kids

### **-Surround yourself with Godly people**

*Proverbs 13:20 Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*

### **-Live out what you believe.**

\*1 Peter 2:15 be a good testimony so that the ignorant have a good example of Christ in you

\*1 Peter 1:14 don't go back to your days of ignorance