

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
[Dialogue]
2. Let's read our primary text. How does Jesus' counter-question to the scribes and pharisees concerning John's baptism expose their hypocrisy?
If they said John's baptism was from God, they'd have to acknowledge John's testimony about Jesus. If they denied it, the people would turn against them. Their refusal to answer reveals that their concern is not truth, but self-preservation.
3. How do we act like the scribes and pharisees in our own lives? Have you ever found yourself pursuing self-preservation, even above truth?
If we are honest with ourselves, when faced with wrong doing, we all tend to have the initial instinct to take the devastating step towards self-preservation over truthfulness. In our sinful nature, we like to put ourselves in the best light, even if it seems miniscule. It is at this intersection, we have a choice to appease the flesh, minimizing negative outcome for ourselves', or we can receive the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who "leads us into paths of righteousness for his name's sake," which could very well lead to the discipline of God (Heb. 12).
4. What warning does Jesus give by quoting Psalm 118:22 ("the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone")?
Though the leaders reject Him, Jesus is God's chosen cornerstone. Rejecting Him leads to judgment. Those who oppose Him will stumble and be crushed.
5. What does Jesus mean by, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's"? Where else might you navigate in the Bible for perspective regarding authority?
Jesus affirms civil responsibility (like paying taxes) but also emphasizes God's ultimate authority. Romans 13:1-7 is also helpful when considering authority structures God has put in place.
6. It seems authority is wired into creation. Why do you think that is?
[Dialogue]
7. When you approach the Bible, would you say you approach it with a deep sense of its authority in your own life? Do you find yourself orienting your life around the Bible or the Bible around your life?
[Dialogue]

8. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is it apparent to others that Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity? Would anyone like to share the gospel with the group?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today," ... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

Sources (used in this order):

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- Christ-Centered Exposition, Luke - (Anyabwile)
- AI Resources (Chat GPT, Grok)