



Pray before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to help your group deepen the application of this message in one another and in our Church. Then, discuss each Q: separately.

Quick Ice-breaker Q: what is your absolutely most favourite bread? Describe...

Sunder taught that in the Scripture, bread was sometimes used metaphorically for God's Word. Note the following passages and what we can learn from each one.

Read **Jeremiah 15:16**

- Q: how do we eat words? (especially words from God)

Read **Ezekiel 2:8-3:3**

- Ezekiel was to "eat this scroll...then go speak"
- Q: what lesson is here for us?

Read **Matthew 4:3-4**

- this occurs near the end of Jesus' 40 days of fasting, being tempted by Satan
- Sunder said that Jesus "was doing what was written". Q: How was He doing so?

Read **John 6:51**

- Q: What did Jesus ("the Word") claim about Himself in this verse?
- Sunder, "God's ultimate revelation was not in a *proposition*, but in a *Person*"
Q: How might this affect the reading of our Bible, and its influence in us?

HOW WE "EAT THIS BOOK"?

1. I Immerse Myself in the Word of God

- Q: have you read through the entire Bible? how many times?
- Q: do you have a regular reading program? What are your reading practices?
- Sunder encouraged us to try reading through the Bible in different translation.
Q: Which translation are you currently reading? Which do you like best? why?

2. I Respond to the Person of God

- Sunder taught how people begin to understand & use language as they grow up (first language is relational, then informational, and then motivational)
- he said that, unfortunately, we drop the relational aspect of the voice of God in the Bible, focusing only on information and motivation (exhortations/commands)
- Q: Why is it so important to maintain the relational aspect of the Scripture?
- Q: How does the relational affect its information and motivation (exhortations)?

3. I Recognize when He Speaks

- When God speaks to you, the Spirit makes the written Word become the living Word
- How to know when God is speaking to you in the Bible? Sunder said, “Pay attention when ‘you are struck’, something is impressed upon you, grabs your attention, etc.”
- recognize the various aspects Holy Spirit speaks thru His Word, and how to respond
 - a) *He reveals something about God and His ways* — I respond with praise
 - Q: Can you recall when you noticed/learned something about God or His ways/purposes as you read a passage from the Bible? Tell your group.
 - b) *He reveals a sin* — I respond with confession/repentance
 - Q: Tell of a time that you can recall where the Bible passage/verse you were reading convicted you of a sin in your life or relationships. How did you know God was convicting you? How did you respond?
 - c) *He makes a promise* — I respond asking for faith, or expressing gratitude
 - Q: Share a time when you discovered a promise in the Bible that God seemed to impress upon you to believe. What were the circumstances in your life at the time? How did His promise affect you?
 - d) *He exhorts an action* — I respond in prayer for opportunity, courage, strength
 - Q: When God spoke to you about obeying a command or taking a risk, how did you respond to Him in prayer and action?
 - e) *He encourages lament* — I respond in complaint to God, ask why/how long?
 - God has given us “the language of complaint” to come to Him with our ugly emotions/anger, to ask gut-wrenching questions, express our pain
 - Q: Is it your tendency *to lament before God, or to complain to people*?
 - if we don’t pray our laments, we can become like the person we hate or are angry at (Sunder, “we become like the object of our emotional focus”)
 - Q: Are you comfortable “praying your ugly emotions to God”? why?/not?

4. I Persevere in Immersing, Recognizing and Responding to God & His Word

- hearing the relational language of God in the Bible takes consistency over time (we need to think in terms of years/decades, not days/weeks)
- Q: does this give you hope or discouragement? why is that?
- Q: in your life, how is it being shown that you are digesting God’s Word?
- Read **Psalm 1:1-3**. Q: what are the effects of digesting God’s Word over time?
“It takes years to make a mature fruit tree, only days to make a weed.”

Conclusion: The primary purpose of Bible is relational — God speaks to us, then we pray back to Him taking our cues from what His Word first speaks to us; then we live it

PRAY for one another that we read God’s Word more and respond relationally to Him