

## INTRO

While many of us probably haven't been to the Burning Man festival that Efrain described, we have been to other events and experiences that have been life changing.

- **What event, festival, camp experience, etc has made a significant impact on your life? And why?**

## IDEA 1 - A SACRED TEXT TO ENCOUNTER

Efrain shared that “If we are honest, we no longer approach the Bible as a sacred text to encounter but merely as a textbook to be examined”

and

“We must recapture the Bible as more than a historical artifact, a source of knowledge or moral guidance—it is a living encounter with the God of the universe”

- **What do you think Efrain means by “the Bible...a sacred text to encounter?”**
- **Why do you think these days we are more likely to approach the Bible as a textbook to be examined than a sacred text to encounter God?**
- **What has been your experience with encountering God through Scripture? How would you describe this experience?**
- **What questions do you have about encountering God through Scripture?**

## IDEA 2- PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Later in his sermon, Efrain explains that “in order to experience the power of God's Word it must travel outside the pages into our everyday life”

- Why do you think in order to experience the power of God's word we must put it into practice in our everyday lives?
- How do you think we can keep ourselves from becoming like the people Efrain described at his academic paper presentation - experts in the Bible but immature in their application of it?
- What does it look like for our life group to not only talk about the sermon and God's word but promote putting it into practice?

## EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER: LECTIO DIVINA

Choose one of the scriptures below from the sermon and engage with it using the practice of Lectio Divina.

- *Heb 4:12-13*
- *James 1:22-25*
- *Acts 2:42-47*

As a reminder, here are the 4 movements of Lectio Divina

1. **Read the Scripture slowly.** What words or phrases is the Holy Spirit impressing on me?
2. **Read the Scripture again.** How is God communicating to me through the words in this passage? What about it resonates with me at this moment?
3. **Respond to God after reading.** What is my response to God based on how he has spoken?
4. **Rest in God's presence.** How is God capturing my attention for deeper union with Him?

## PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK - LECTIO DIVINA

Continue to engage with Scripture this week using the practice of Lectio Divina as a way to encounter the word of God