

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT *(continued)*

## **TAKING IT HOME:**

1. "The clearest picture of God is not only Jesus - it's **THE CROSS!**" At the cross of Jesus, we see ALL of his commands brought to life in one act of self-sacrificial, enemy-love! Since we view ALL of the Scriptures through the lens of Jesus, why is this critical to our understanding of the rest of the Bible?

2. Violence isn't just about physical acts committed against another person - it's about a mindset in which we use power or position to take advantage of someone else. In what ways have you seen this spirit of "empire" or "violence" still alive today?

3. When you read Paul's summary in **Galatians 5:13-14**, how would you apply that to your life today? What does that look like in 2018?

4. As you reflect on the talk from Sunday, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

# MESSAGE NOTES

## **Bible Q&A // Week 4**

We \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible so that we can \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus!

*You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. **John 5:39-40***

### **Why is there so much violence in the Bible?**

1. There is an \_\_\_\_\_ to the story of humanity in the Bible.

2. God inspired a book that incorporates the \_\_\_\_\_ of its human authors.

*I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) **1 Corinthians 1:14-16***

3. God \_\_\_\_\_ himself as much as possible while \_\_\_\_\_ as much as necessary.

*The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship. If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshipers would have been purified once for all time, and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared. But instead, those sacrifices actually reminded them of their sins year after year. For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer." **Hebrews 10:1-5***

4. The clearest picture of God is not only Jesus - it's the \_\_\_\_\_!

*In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross! **Philippians 2:5-8***



## MESSAGE NOTES *(continued)*

5. The kingdom of God is established not through \_\_\_\_\_,

but through \_\_\_\_\_ love.

*Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."*

*Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it has been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. **Revelation 5:5-6***

### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

*For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **Galatians 5:13-14***

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE?

You've got questions, and we'd love to walk through some of those with you! No question is off limits... "Why do bad things happen to good people?" OR, "Will my pet gerbil, Fluffy, make it to heaven?"

If you want to learn more about the Bible, we have some resources for you... just check out: [www.westbridgechurch.com/bible](http://www.westbridgechurch.com/bible)

You can submit questions and we'll try to answer them during this series!

**"Be doers of the word and not hearers..." James 1:22**



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We encourage you to take these questions home with you and **WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS**. Bring it with you to Home Church as you discuss how this applies to your life!

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. "We **READ** the Bible so that we can **FOLLOW** Jesus!" What is your gut reaction to that statement? Have you ever seen someone "follow the Bible" in a way that led to a behavior that was anti-Jesus?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. In these verses, the author's intention in writing this is less about HOW we got the Scriptures, and more about the practical application of them! In what ways does the author tell us that Scripture is useful?

2. Why do you think God chose to incorporate the flaws of human authors? Why didn't God simply dictate every word?

3. "God **REVEALS** himself as much as **POSSIBLE**, while **ACCOMMODATING** as much as **NECESSARY!**" How does that idea help you to interpret the violence that we see taking place in the Ancient Near East civilizations of the Old Testament? How did that culture shape their view of God in the arc of the story?