

## ***Chapter Seven: Impacted By the Living Word***

This is a very significant chapter in the discussion of this book. Last year Christ Community participated in a national spiritual growth survey entitled REVEAL with over 200 churches. One of the most powerful insights from this survey is that reflection on Scripture is the most influential spiritual practice for people at every level of spiritual maturity. It is a catalyst for spiritual growth unlike anything else. So wrestling with this together in your group is worth every moment invested in doing so. We'll be praying for you as you lead!

### **Getting Connected**

The first question in this section is written to encourage open sharing, with the second asking people to define their views in a more focused way. Make sure you encourage people to reflect on their answer and allow some silence as people reflect. Don't rush them here.

### **Highlights and Insights**

There's a little shorter section here this week, primarily to allow time to engage with a slightly longer Biblical Focus. Don't spend too much time here, allowing things to stall or get off focus.

### **Biblical Focus**

The point to wrestle with in the John passage is that a person can go through the motions of studying the Bible for religious reasons rooted in duty, or to develop a personal relationship with Christ. In discussing Psalm 1, please be sure that God's "blessing" isn't perceived as a rabbit's foot – that I read the Bible to get what I want (i.e. God's blessing). Rather, we experience God most fully when we allow His Word to permeate our thinking and responses, and engage with life from God's eternal perspective.

### **The Heart of the Matter**

Please don't let this become a guilt and shame time, or to make people feel they are mature or not mature on the basis of their responses. Perhaps you might begin by saying, *"We all have room to grow in our experience with God's Word, whether we're new believers or have known Christ for many years. And we're all guilty at times of forgetting just what a precious gift God has given us in His Word ..."*

### **In Conclusion...**

In addition to recommended prayer requests, you might invite people to pray for you and the others at Christ Community who lead people in the study of God's Word on a regular basis (small group leaders, Bible teachers, Pastor Alan, etc.). Also for Pastor Bruce and the adult ministries team as they unfold some exciting new equipping opportunities in the months ahead to help people grow in their relationship with the Bible.