

CELL GROUP STUDY
FEBRUARY 16 - MARCH 23
WEEKS 1-6

ENDURE TO THE END

MATTHEW 23-25



HOW TO USE THE STUDY

Cell Group is "Our disciplined effort to speak the truth one to another in the hope that the church may be brought to maturity." We hope this resource will help you commune with the LORD and his people as you study His Word and speak it to one another in your cell groups, missional communities, and homes.

WEEKLY STEPS

For each week follow these steps...

Step One | Read the text. We have provided the text in a layout with lots of space to make notes and observations.

Step Two | Walk through the 5 steps of the "Interpretive Journey." These steps are designed to help you study the text, identify truth, and discern application.

Step Three | Respond in prayer by offering praise, thanksgiving, confession, and petition.

Step Four | Summarize what you have learned from the text in the CG Conversation worksheet so that you might be ready to speak the truth with your CG and others.

Step Five | Go to corporate worship ready to hear from God as the pastors preach from the text you have been considering each week.

IMPOSSIBLE CHRISTIANITY BY KEVIN DEYOUNG

We recommend that, alongside studying the sermon text, Cell Groups walk through this resource. "By reflecting on what Jesus actually taught about Christian discipleship, readers will be newly encouraged to pursue single-minded devotion to God and find lasting joy in a life of sincere and simple obedience." There are 8 chapters to cover in 5 weeks between February 16th and March 23rd.

**ORDER YOUR COPY
TODAY**



THE INTERPRETIVE JOURNEY

Each week, we will guide you through the study of the text with what is known as "The Interpretive Journey." The Interpretive Journey helps you know and apply a text with 5 easy steps which have been detailed by J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hayes in their great resource, [Grasping God's Word: A Hands-on Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible.](#)

The five steps will be identified in the CG Journal with the following terms:

- 1.Their Town
- 2.The River
- 3.The Principlizing (Truth) Bridge
- 4.The Biblical Map
- 5.Our Town

Here is a summary of each step along with the key question at each step you are trying to answer before moving on to the next phase of the journey.

STEP #1 | GRASPING THE TEXT IN THEIR TOWN

Key Question | "What did the text mean to the original audience?"

In this first step we are concerned with what actually happened in the text. At this point we are not trying to discern its significance for us but we are simply collecting objective information.

Here we are asking questions such as:

- Who wrote the text?
- Did the author instruct the original reader to do anything?
- Who were the original recipients?
- What happened to the characters in the text? Who said and did what?



In step 1, "we read the text and observe it" (GGW, p.42). To do this step, the reader must be diligent to "look, look, and look again, observing all [he] can." (GGW, p.42) We must carefully consider the grammar and the contexts - both historical and literary. All of this work helps us first understand what the original readers understood as the meaning and significance.

STEP #2 | MEASURING THE WIDTH OF THE RIVER TO CROSS

Key Question | "What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?"

"The Christian today is separated from the biblical audience by differences in culture, language, situation, time, and often covenant. These differences form a river that hinders us from moving straight from meaning in their context to meaning in ours. The width of the river, however, varies from passage to passage. Sometimes it is extremely wide, requiring a long, substantial bridge for crossing. Other times, however, it is a narrow creek that we can easily hop over. It is obviously important to know just how wide the river is before we start to construct a principlizing bridge." (GGW, p.42-43)

STEP #3 | CROSSING THE PRINCIPLIZING BRIDGE

Key Question | "What is the theological principle in this text?"

We must remember this principle is not for us to create or impose on the text. Instead, we are seeking to discover or see it in the text.

THE INTERPRETIVE JOURNEY

Our principle should (GGW, p. 45)

- Be reflected in the text
- Be timeless and not tied to a specific age
- Not be culturally bound
- Correspond to the teaching of the rest of Scripture
- Be relevant to both the biblical and the contemporary audience

Our theological principle should be true at all times, in all places, for all people.

STEP #4 | CONSULT THE BIBLICAL MAP

Key Question | “How does our theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?”

Since we are flawed interpreters, we must test our theological principle against the rest of Scripture.

By checking the rest of Scripture, you may learn new insights and gain a fuller understanding of your principle. You may also learn that your principle contradicts the Scriptures and needs to be modified or all-out rejected before you continue. “If your principle is valid, it ought to ‘fit’ or ‘correlate’ with the rest of the Bible.” (GGW, p.45)

STEP #5 | GRASPING THE TEXT IN OUR TOWN

Key Question | “How should individual Christians today live out the theological principles?”

In this final step, theology meets practice. We make statements in this step such as: “Since ____ is true, we should ____.” Our diligence in discovering the principle truth allows us at this point to prescribe right action in any context. “While for each passage there will usually be only a few (and often only one) theological principles relevant for all Christians today, there will be numerous application possibilities.” (GGW, p.46) Good work in the first four steps will equip us to discern what thoughts, feelings, and actions please the LORD!

WEEK #1 | MATTHEW 23:1-12

WEEK #2 | MATTHEW 23:37-39

WEEK #3 | MATTHEW 24:1-14

WEEK #4 | MATTHEW 24:36-25:30

WEEK #5 | MATTHEW 25:31-46

WEEK #6 | MATTHEW 24:15-35

TABLE OF CONTENTS



LEARN MORE ABOUT CELL GROUP
cf-northwest.com/cellgroups

MATTHEW 23:1-12

WEEK ONE



MATTHEW
23:1-12

MATTHEW 23:37-39

WEEK TWO

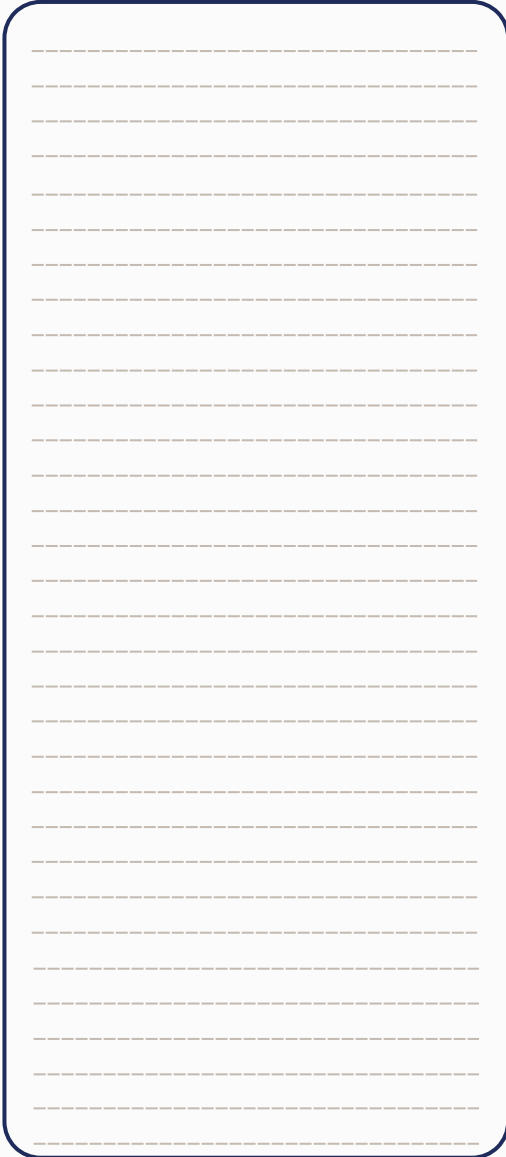


MATTHEW
23:37-39

STUDY THE TEXT

Week Two | Matthew 23:37-39

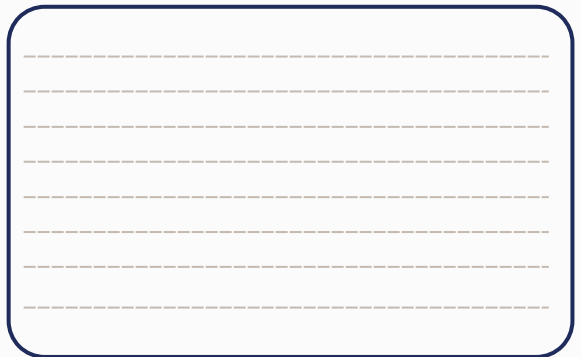
THEIR TOWN | TRY SUMMARIZING WHAT THE PASSAGE IS SAYING OR WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PASSAGE WITHOUT TRYING TO EXPLAIN ITS MEANING.



THE RIVER | WHAT DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES DO YOU HAVE WITH THE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY OR THE PEOPLE TO WHOM THE PASSAGE WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN.



THE PRINCIPLIZING (TRUTH) BRIDGE | WHAT IS AT LEAST ONE TRUTH YOU THINK THIS TEXT TEACHES? TRY TO STATE IT IN ONE SENTENCE. (EX: GOD IS LOVE)



THE BIBLICAL MAP | DOES THE REST OF THE BIBLE TEACH THIS TRUTH AS WELL? IF SO, TRY TO WRITE DOWN FIVE OTHER PASSAGES THAT EITHER STATE THE SAME TRUTH OR FURTHER HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH YOU IDENTIFIED ABOVE.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____

OUR TOWN | HOW SHOULD THIS TRUTH AFFECT YOUR LIFE ? IF IT IS REALLY TRUE HOW SHOULD IT CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK, FEEL, AND ACT?

How should this truth affect the way you think?

How should this truth affect your feelings?

How should this truth affect the way you act?

Got Questions? Use this space to record questions that you need answered so you might take them to your Cell Group, MC or pastors.

WEEK THREE



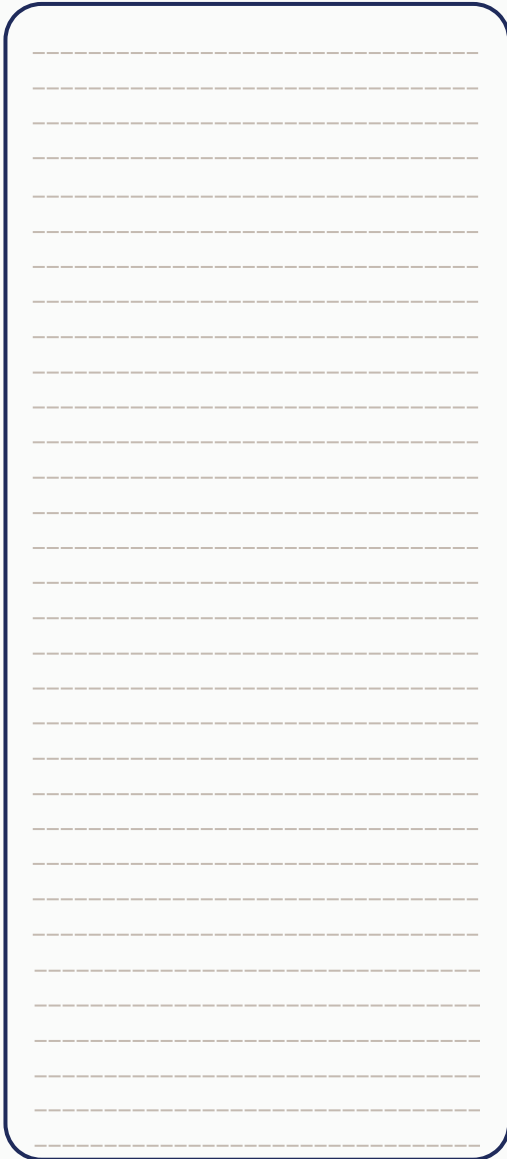
MATTHEW

24:1-14

STUDY THE TEXT

Week Three | Matthew 24:1-14

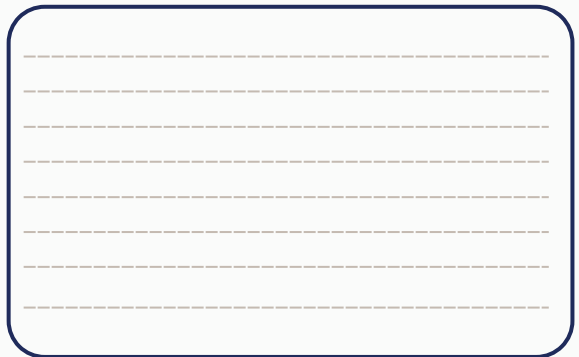
THEIR TOWN | TRY SUMMARIZING WHAT THE PASSAGE IS SAYING OR WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PASSAGE WITHOUT TRYING TO EXPLAIN ITS MEANING.



THE RIVER | WHAT DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES DO YOU HAVE WITH THE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY OR THE PEOPLE TO WHOM THE PASSAGE WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN.



THE PRINCIPLIZING (TRUTH) BRIDGE | WHAT IS AT LEAST ONE TRUTH YOU THINK THIS TEXT TEACHES? TRY TO STATE IT IN ONE SENTENCE. (EX: GOD IS LOVE)



THE BIBLICAL MAP | DOES THE REST OF THE BIBLE TEACH THIS TRUTH AS WELL? IF SO, TRY TO WRITE DOWN FIVE OTHER PASSAGES THAT EITHER STATE THE SAME TRUTH OR FURTHER HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH YOU IDENTIFIED ABOVE.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____

OUR TOWN | HOW SHOULD THIS TRUTH AFFECT YOUR LIFE ? IF IT IS REALLY TRUE HOW SHOULD IT CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK, FEEL, AND ACT?

How should this truth affect the way you think?

How should this truth affect your feelings?

How should this truth affect the way you act?

Got Questions? Use this space to record questions that you need answered so you might take them to your Cell Group, MC or pastors.

WEEK FOUR



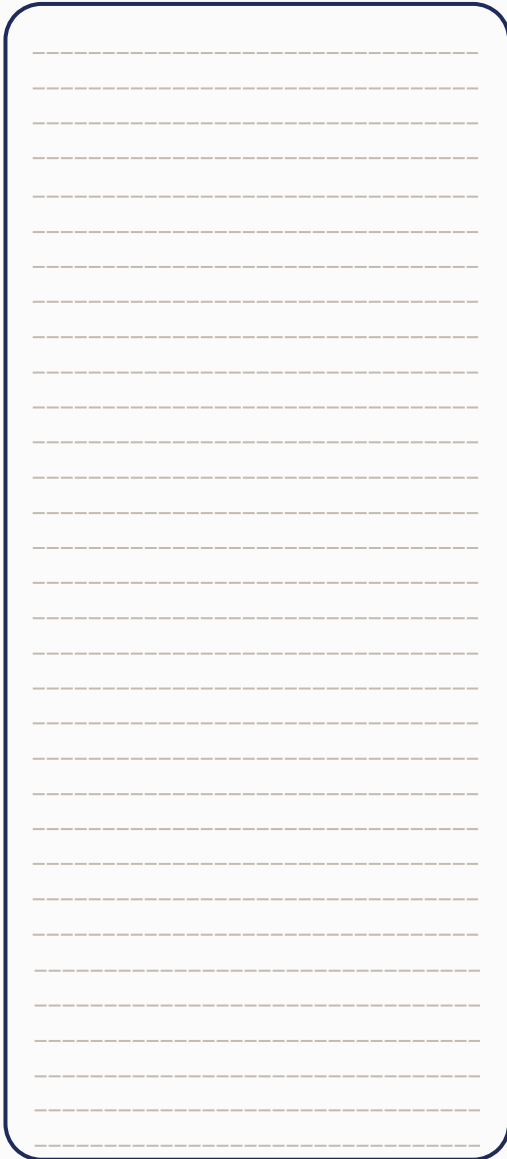
MATTHEW

24:36-25:30

STUDY THE TEXT

Week Four | Matthew 24:36-25:30

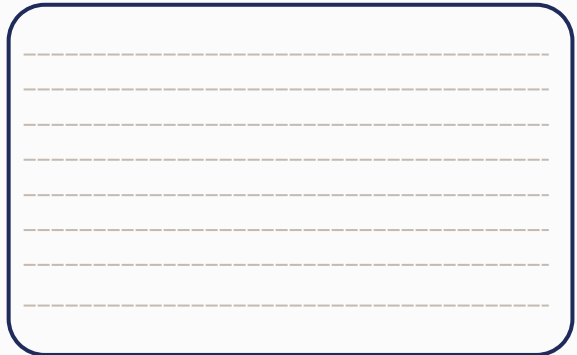
THEIR TOWN | TRY SUMMARIZING WHAT THE PASSAGE IS SAYING OR WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PASSAGE WITHOUT TRYING TO EXPLAIN ITS MEANING.



THE RIVER | WHAT DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES DO YOU HAVE WITH THE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY OR THE PEOPLE TO WHOM THE PASSAGE WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN.



THE PRINCIPLIZING (TRUTH) BRIDGE | WHAT IS AT LEAST ONE TRUTH YOU THINK THIS TEXT TEACHES? TRY TO STATE IT IN ONE SENTENCE. (EX: GOD IS LOVE)



THE BIBLICAL MAP | DOES THE REST OF THE BIBLE TEACH THIS TRUTH AS WELL? IF SO, TRY TO WRITE DOWN FIVE OTHER PASSAGES THAT EITHER STATE THE SAME TRUTH OR FURTHER HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH YOU IDENTIFIED ABOVE.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____

OUR TOWN | HOW SHOULD THIS TRUTH AFFECT YOUR LIFE ? IF IT IS REALLY TRUE HOW SHOULD IT CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK, FEEL, AND ACT?

How should this truth affect the way you think?

How should this truth affect your feelings?

How should this truth affect the way you act?

Got Questions? Use this space to record questions that you need answered so you might take them to your Cell Group, MC or pastors.

WEEK FIVE



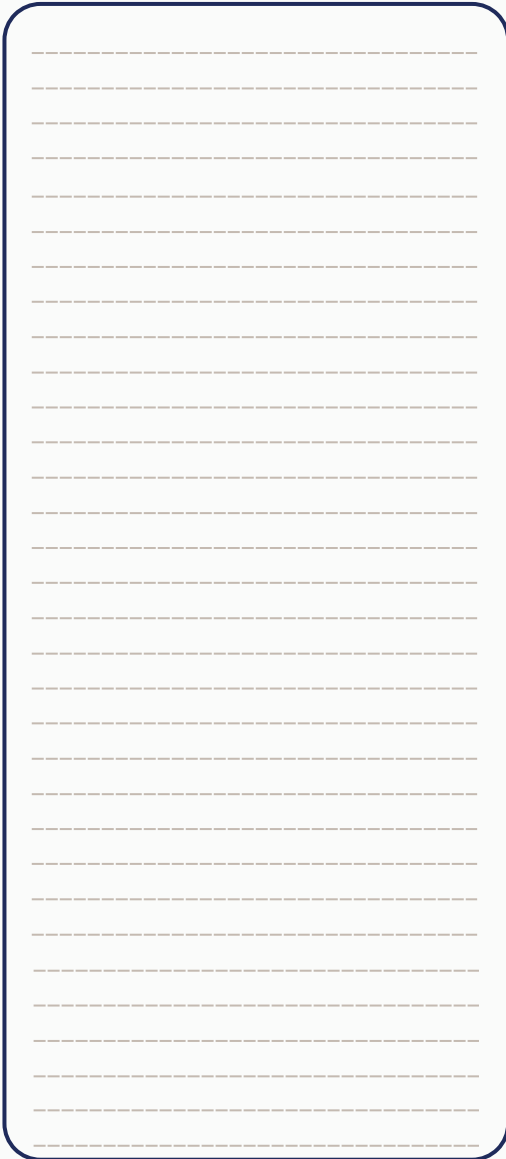
MATTHEW

25:31-46

STUDY THE TEXT

Week Five | Matthew 25:31-46

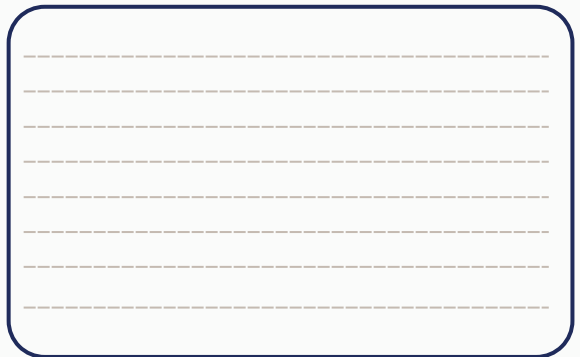
THEIR TOWN | TRY SUMMARIZING WHAT THE PASSAGE IS SAYING OR WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PASSAGE WITHOUT TRYING TO EXPLAIN ITS MEANING.



THE RIVER | WHAT DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES DO YOU HAVE WITH THE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY OR THE PEOPLE TO WHOM THE PASSAGE WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN.



THE PRINCIPLIZING (TRUTH) BRIDGE | WHAT IS AT LEAST ONE TRUTH YOU THINK THIS TEXT TEACHES? TRY TO STATE IT IN ONE SENTENCE. (EX: GOD IS LOVE)



THE BIBLICAL MAP | DOES THE REST OF THE BIBLE TEACH THIS TRUTH AS WELL? IF SO, TRY TO WRITE DOWN FIVE OTHER PASSAGES THAT EITHER STATE THE SAME TRUTH OR FURTHER HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH YOU IDENTIFIED ABOVE.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____

OUR TOWN | HOW SHOULD THIS TRUTH AFFECT YOUR LIFE ? IF IT IS REALLY TRUE HOW SHOULD IT CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK, FEEL, AND ACT?

How should this truth affect the way you think?

How should this truth affect your feelings?

How should this truth affect the way you act?

Got Questions? Use this space to record questions that you need answered so you might take them to your Cell Group, MC or pastors.

WEEK SIX

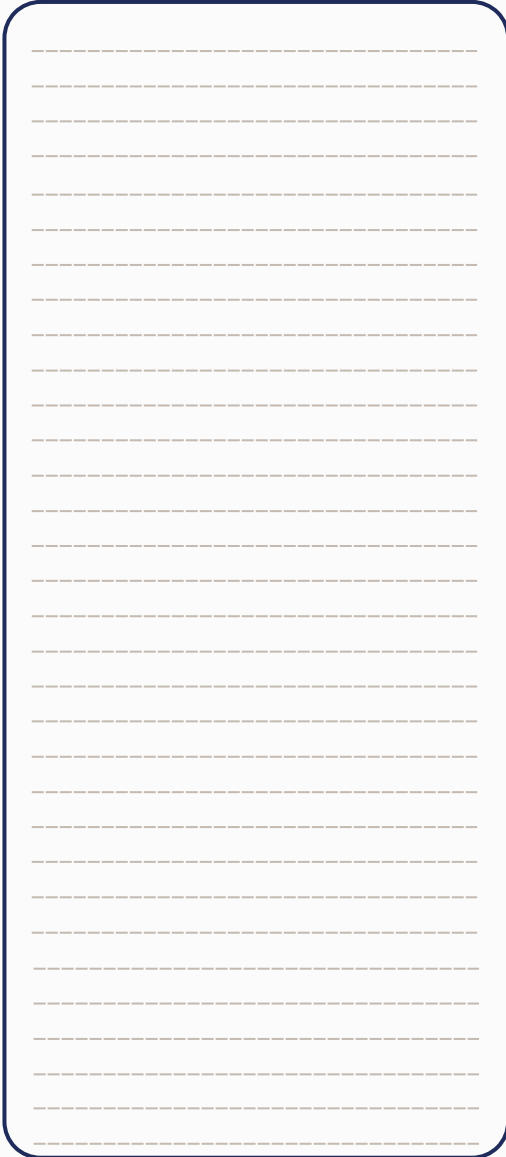


MATTHEW
24:15-35

STUDY THE TEXT

Week Six | Matthew 24:15-35

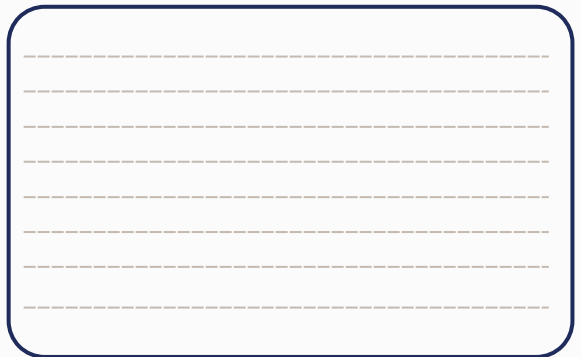
THEIR TOWN | TRY SUMMARIZING WHAT THE PASSAGE IS SAYING OR WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PASSAGE WITHOUT TRYING TO EXPLAIN ITS MEANING.



THE RIVER | WHAT DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES DO YOU HAVE WITH THE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY OR THE PEOPLE TO WHOM THE PASSAGE WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN.



THE PRINCIPLIZING (TRUTH) BRIDGE | WHAT IS AT LEAST ONE TRUTH YOU THINK THIS TEXT TEACHES? TRY TO STATE IT IN ONE SENTENCE. (EX: GOD IS LOVE)



THE BIBLICAL MAP | DOES THE REST OF THE BIBLE TEACH THIS TRUTH AS WELL? IF SO, TRY TO WRITE DOWN FIVE OTHER PASSAGES THAT EITHER STATE THE SAME TRUTH OR FURTHER HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH YOU IDENTIFIED ABOVE.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____

OUR TOWN | HOW SHOULD THIS TRUTH AFFECT YOUR LIFE ? IF IT IS REALLY TRUE HOW SHOULD IT CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK, FEEL, AND ACT?

How should this truth affect the way you think?

How should this truth affect your feelings?

How should this truth affect the way you act?

Got Questions? Use this space to record questions that you need answered so you might take them to your Cell Group, MC or pastors.

RECOMMENDED CELL GROUP RESOURCE



IMPOSSIBLE CHRISTIANITY
BY KEVIN DEYOUNG

Take a Look

We recommend that, alongside studying the sermon text, Cell Groups walk through *Impossible Christianity* by Kevin Deyoung. “By reflecting on what Jesus actually taught about Christian discipleship, readers will be newly encouraged to pursue single-minded devotion to God and find lasting joy in a life of sincere and simple obedience.” There are 8 chapters to cover in the 5 weeks between February 16th and March 23rd

