Weekly Bible Reading - January

//Dec 30//
Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6:17-49
The sermon on the mount is part of the foundational teaching from Jesus. As you read these passages in week 1 of 2019, we would encourage you to ask yourself the questions listed below. The intent is to move each us from knowledge to true obedience of these teachings in our life.

- How many separate teachings or commands can you list in these chapters?
- How would you grade yourself in each of these teaching?
- List the ones where you grade yourself poorly. What do you need to do in your life to make the teachings an active and faithful part of your life?
- Will you ask someone to help you and to encourage you in your efforts?

//January 6//
Hebrews 11
In this chapter about faith, we see the actions of many Old Testament characters cast in the light of faith. We are told in verse 6 that without faith it is impossible to please God. We need to understand what true faith looks like in our lives individually and collectively as a body of believers at Holland Park.

- Which 3 examples of faith are the most meaningful to you?
- What are some of the potential negatives that can come to your life if you are living by faith?
- What are the positive impacts of living by faith?
- What are areas of your life that need to become faith-based rather than sight-based?
- If the Hebrew writer were to mention you in Chapter 11, what would be his brief words about how your faith has been demonstrated?

//January 13//
Matt 16:21-28, Luke 9:21-27 and Luke 14:25-35
In these passages we hear from Jesus the terms of discipleship and the cost we must count if we want to follow him. Discipleship means a devotion and level of commitment unlike anything the world will ask of us. As we look to obey the great commission in making disciples we must all understand what true discipleship means for each of us?

- Do you consider yourself to be a disciple of Jesus?
- Jesus' words about being a disciple appear too hard. Yet, do we understand the incredible offer that Jesus is making to us in exchange for following him?
- What are you afraid or unwilling to give up in order to be his disciple?

//January 20//
Ephesians 2:1-10, Romans 3:9-31, 2nd Corinthians 5:11-21 and Titus 2:11-14
We want to encourage each of us to spend time this week immersed in these passages which describe God's amazing grace and how he has saved us. Think about how we were dead in sin and through his love and mercy we are made right again.

No list or questions this week. Just meditate on God's word and see where it leads you.

//January 27//
Matthew 13
Jesus uses different examples to describe the kingdom of God. He uses agriculture, baking, hidden treasure, a pearl of great value and fishing to try and relate the kingdom to audiences and to us as well.

- Which example do you relate to the most and which one the least?
- Are there several common threads in these parables that Jesus intends for us to understand?
- We tend to use the term church in our language today. Are we missing something by not identifying ourselves as the kingdom of God?
- How do we reconcile the judgment/sifting elements which are part of the kingdom with God's grace we studied and meditated on last week?

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