

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMER
AT
HILLSIDE

August 13, 2023

COURAGEOUS EDUCATION ~Woody Morwood

This Discussion Guide is designed to help you **think more deeply** about the sermon and **engage with others** through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and **allow God to work** in your life as you apply what you discover.

➤ CONVERSATION STARTER

What was your favorite subject in school and why?

➤ EXPLORATION

Whether you are actively engaged in education or not, Back To School week impacts all of us. Over these next few weeks students, parents, teachers, and administrators will begin the new rhythm of the school year. Traffic patterns are changing, lines at stores are longer, kids and students are carrying backpacks, parents and teachers are gearing up for the year ahead.

Here at Hillside we have people participating in all kinds of educational activities: Preschool, Elementary school, Jr. High, High School, Trade School, College, University, Grad School, etc. We have families that have chosen Homeschool, Charter School, Public School, Private School, there are so many different kinds of schools. We celebrate each unique setting and opportunity for learning.

How does the “Back to School” season impact you? (educator, student, parent, observer, other...)

Psalm 1:1-2 (From your bible, read aloud)

The word “meditate” is translated from the Hebrew word “Hagah.” This word means, “to moan, growl, utter, muse, mutter, meditate...” It is the approach to spiritual learning.

The same word is used in Isaiah 31:4, “As a young lion “growls” over its prey...” Imagine an animal approaching and savoring a much needed piece of food. This is the posture that a dedicated learner takes as they read, muse, mutter and meditate over God’s word. And this is a posture a student may also choose to take as they approach their overall education.

In the following verses, we see the metaphor of “eating scripture.” Keep in mind the definition we just learned as you read.

Ezekiel 3:3 (From your bible, read aloud)

Jeremiah 15:16 (From your bible, read aloud)

Revelation 10:9a (From your bible, read aloud)

This image suggests that we approach our learning with a passionate pursuit of all that God has for us, wanting to savor every part deeply.

How might this image of meditating on God's word inspire you in your own studies?

When we bring this idea into our general education, we can help foster and encourage deep learning for our students. We want every student to be open to learning, but not just any learning, Godly learning.

- Godly Wisdom – not just any wisdom
- Godly Perspective – not just perspective and skills
- Godly Character – not just any kind of character
- Godly Direction – not just any direction

Matthew 13:24-30 (From your bible, read aloud)

What stands out to you from this passage?

"The word translated 'weeds' in this passage is a specific plant called 'darnel'. It has been called 'wheat's evil twin' because, as it grows, it looks almost exactly like wheat, but its seeds can make you dizzy, off-balance and nauseous. Throughout human history, darnel has been both 'a menace, and [an] intoxicant'. Small doses can give you a high, but large doses can be fatal. Thankfully the servants in this story can differentiate between the growth of God's Kingdom and the alluring substitutes that are ultimately harmful." -Carla Harding, *Lectio 365*

This parable reminds us that the good and the bad often grow together. It is our responsibility to weigh what we are learning against God's ways. We keep what is good and discard the rest.

We learn God's ways through the Bible and through Godly instruction. As parents, teachers and influencers in the lives of students, we can provide much needed perspective to those who are young and in need of Godly guidance.

There is no perfect school, no perfect educational system, no perfect teacher, no perfect curriculum... we must be aware of what is being taught and help our kids learn to navigate the world and the WEEDS. We need discernment and we also need to help our young students learn how to find discernment on their own.

What are some things you learned in school, either in the classroom or just through interactions that you have had to reevaluate as a Christ-follower?

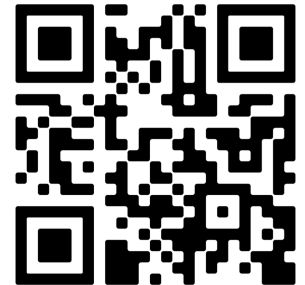
As we think about those in our church who are entering into a new season of education, we recognize that there are challenges ahead. Whether you are directly impacted or not, you can make a difference in the lives of students, teachers, parents and administrators through prayer.

> TAKE AWAY

The bible tells us that we are to actively participate in learning, general knowledge and God's word. Whatever season you are currently in, we can all participate in learning.

Take some time to pray for all those who are entering this new season of education.

For more ideas on how to pray specifically for students, teachers, parents and school administrators, throughout the coming year, scan the QR code for the complete prayer guide.



> 1000 TABLES CELEBRATION

There is still time to be part of 1000 Tables. Join us on Sunday, September 3rd for a taco dinner on the field to celebrate the community we experienced this past summer. We will also be welcoming back Pastor Aaron as he returns from his sabbatical. The cost is \$12 - Adults, \$8 - Kids. Register today, online at www.hillsidechurches.com/tables/ or on the Hillside App. Space is limited, register now!

Jesus, Community, Tacos, Repeat
Join the fun! It's not too late!