10-18-26 Sermon Discussion Guide

Illumination – Pastor Stewart Farley

Scriptures for Today

Psalm 119:18 / 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 / John 6:63 / Jeremiah 31:33 / Hebrews 8:10 Hebrews 10:16 /John 14:26 Ephesians 4:18

Opening Reflection — Follow Up From Last Week

Last week's personal challenge encouraged us to step toward people with the same grace Christ has shown us:

- Reach out to someone you had avoided.
- Pray for someone who hurt you.
- Extend grace instead of judgment.
- Share Jesus boldly and without conditions.

Which of these challenges did you attempt this week, and what did God teach you through that experience?

Was there a moment when God helped you move beyond fear, hurt, or hesitation and respond differently than you normally would have?

1. Revelation, Inspiration, and Illumination Pastor explained that revelation is God speaking, inspiration is the recording of what God has said, and illumination is understanding what God is saying personally to us today. **What is the difference between knowing what the Bible says and hearing what God is saying to you through it?**

2. "Open My Eyes" Psalm 119:18 was presented as the prayer of someone who wanted more than information. **When you open God's Word, do you primarily seek information, or do you seek transformation? Why?**

3. Why Do Some Sermons Produce So Little Change? Pastor asked how people can hear so many sermons over so many years and experience so little effect. **What are some reasons a person can hear biblical truth yet fail to be changed by it?**

4. Three Levels of Hearing The sermon described hearing, understanding, and experiencing truth. **Can you think of a Scripture or truth you understood intellectually long before it became real in your life? What changed?**

5. God's Word to You Illumination was described as God personalizing His truth and applying it to your life. **Tell about a time when a passage of Scripture suddenly felt as if God was speaking directly to your situation.**

6. Static on the Line Pastor compared sin to static that interferes with a signal and makes it difficult to see clearly. **What attitudes, habits, distractions, or struggles can create spiritual "static" that hinders our ability to hear God?**

7. Seeing Through God's Eyes The Holy Spirit helps believers see beyond the natural realm and understand spiritual realities. **Where in your life right now do you most need God's perspective instead of your own?**

8. Information vs. Illumination Pastor emphasized that education, knowledge, and information alone do not produce illumination. **Why is it possible to know a great deal about the Bible while still missing God's voice and work in your life?**

9. The Holy Spirit's Work According to the message, the Holy Spirit teaches, reminds, guides, convicts, and empowers believers from within. **Which aspect of the Holy Spirit's work have you experienced most personally in this season of your life?**

10. From Illumination to Application Pastor stated that we don't just want revelation and inspiration; we want illumination so that we can experience application. **What truth from this message needs to move from your head to your heart and into your daily life this week?**

Closing Call to Action

This week, pursue illumination rather than information.

Before reading Scripture each day, pray Psalm 119:18: "Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things from Your law."

Choose one passage of Scripture and read it slowly, asking the Holy Spirit not only to help you understand it, but to apply it personally to your life.

As God reveals an area where He wants to guide, correct, encourage, or transform you, take one specific action in response.

Don't simply read God's Word this week. Ask Him to make His Word personal, life-giving, and transformational. Let Him move truth from the page into your heart and from your heart into your life.