



small groups

Discussion Guide



Guided By God's Word

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Ice Breaker

(5 minutes)

Discuss This

- Talk about the Bible you use. How many Bibles do you own? How do you most often read the Bible? On screen or on paper? Which translation do you favor?
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Lesson Review

(50 minutes)

Read This

2 Timothy 3:10-17

If possible, read it in both the Message, as well as a standard translation like NIV, ESV or NASB.

Also read Psalm 119:105-112

Discuss This

- What similarities do you see in the Psalm and 2 Timothy passages?

The Importance of God's Word

Read This

Bible.org describes the Bible this way:

The Bible is unique in its production, preservation, proclamations, and product. In its production, it is a harmonious and unified message of redemption that has emerged out of diversity of authors, circumstances, and literary forms. In its preservation, it has miraculously withstood the ravages of time, persecution, and criticism, and continues to be the best selling book in the world. In its proclamations, it stands alone in its revelation of God's plan from eternity to eternity and in its life-giving message. In its product, it has changed the course of history, reached more people, and transformed more lives than any other book.

The following paragraph is taken from IBC's Statement of Belief. At IBC, we believe that:

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

The Uses Of God's Word

Pastor Andy used the four gerunds in 2 Tim. 3:16 to outline his sermon: teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training.

All Scripture Is Useful For Showing Us Truth

(Teaching / "Where are we stuck?")

This first use of scripture is the one we're most familiar with. Because of our Platonic, post-Enlightenment, scientific, Western culture, we tend to treat sacred texts as something to be studied and learned. We sit in lecture halls (sanctuaries) and listen to lectures (sermons) about the class text (scripture).

This is certainly true at IBC. We are a Bible church, after all. Knowledge of the Bible is important.

Discuss This

- Where or from whom have you learned the most about the scriptures?

All Scripture Is Useful For Exposing Our Rebellion

(Rebuking / Elegchos / "How did we get here?")

It's one thing to learn that cheating is wrong (teaching); it's another thing to hear a brother or sister in Christ say, "You need to stop cheating" (rebuking).

Read This

The following proverbs deal with the value of rebuke: Prov. 3:11, 17:10, 27:5, 28:23

Both rebuking and receiving rebuke require humility. That is why scripture is useful here. It's easier to say, "The Bible says we shouldn't..." than to say, "I think you shouldn't..."

Discuss This

- When was the last time you received rebuke? How did you take it?
- Who has permission to rebuke you?

All Scripture Is Useful For Correcting Our Mistakes

(Correcting / Epanorthosis / "What's the way out?")

The Bible not only exposes our sin, it also transforms us so that we're able to escape control of our sin.

“The scriptures were not given for our information but our transformation.”

– D.L. Moody

All Scripture Is Useful For Training Us To Live God’s Way

(Training / Paideia / “How can we avoid getting stuck in the future?”)

Training is hard. If it’s easy, it’s not training, it’s recreation! Likewise, being transformed by the scriptures is hard. Reading the scriptures might come easy to you. Studying or even memorizing scripture might not be a challenge. But living out the transforming love of Jesus found in the scriptures is always challenging.

Discuss This

- How are you being challenged from the scriptures?
- How can your group challenge one another?

Application

(5 minutes)

Andy had two very simple points of application: get organized and get started!

Discuss This

- Consider committing, as a group, to this 14-day reading plan:
<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/1240-prayer-a-14-day-devotional-by-tim-keller>

This will get you in the scriptures every day. And the topic of the plan is prayer. Next Sunday’s sermon will be on prayer, so this 14-day plan will get your group involved in both scripture and prayer on the weeks that we’re talking about those at church.