

God's Word Part 1

Purpose: The goal for this week is to look at different characteristics of God's Word and study its importance for our lives as Christians.

Introduction

1. What comes to mind when you think of The Bible?

2. Why is studying God's Word so crucial in our relationship with Him?

What is The Bible? Is it Reliable?

Before you go through these further questions, it is important that we highlight some starting points in studying Scripture.

God's Word is:

- His written revelation to us, so that we know and read about the love of Christ and the Gospel
- Inerrant and truthful in all it says
- Inspired by the Holy Spirit

We will look at where these ideas are found in Scripture in the following sections.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 and answer the following questions:

3. What does this passage say about Scripture? What is its role in our walk with Christ?

4. How much of Scripture is breathed-out and profitable for us?

5. Based on verse 17, what is one of the end goals of Scripture in our lives?

6. What does it mean that Scripture is “God-breathed?”

What is meant is that God speaks through these words. God breathed life and meaning and truth into them all. Note that we are not given an explanation of how that works. This word by itself does not explicate a theory of inspiration or its nature. Does the Spirit lift the mind of the writer to see, understand, and write, or is it a matter of mechanical dictation? These questions are not answered here. What is suggested is that whatever the process, the product is God’s Word, telling God’s truth. The emphasis here is actually on what it is good or profitable for—as a source of teaching about God and human beings and their ways, as a means of refuting false arguments or errors and offering positive ‘proofs’ and rebuking sin, and as a means of offering constructive wisdom and teaching on how to live a life pleasing to God- Ben Witherington

7. What is the final product of Scripture being breathed out by God? Consider the above quote.

Read Romans 16:25-27 and answer the following questions:

8. How are we strengthened in our faith?

9. What was kept secret as a mystery for so long?

10. Who has the mystery now been revealed to? How has it been made known?

11. What does the hearing and reading of the Gospel bring about?

12. Read the following passages of Scripture. What does Scripture claim about itself? How does this speak to the power and authority of God's Word?

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Answer</i>
1 Thess. 2:13	
Ps. 12:6	
Ps. 119:160	

Prov. 30:5-6	
Ps. 19:7	
Isa. 55:11	

13. Based on all of the passages we have read, is it possible for God's Word to contain errors or to speak anything other than the truth? Consider Hebrews 6:18.

Importance and Power of Scripture

With this foundation of Scripture, it is important to turn and look at why The Bible should be the center of our lives and our ultimate authority.

Read Hebrews 4:12-13 and answer the following questions:

14. What does this passage say about God's Word?

15. What does it mean that the Word is living and active? Have you ever experienced this power of the Word?

16. What does it mean that the Word discerns our thoughts and intentions? Why is this so important?

Read 2 Peter 1:19-21 and answer the following questions:

17. What is Scripture compared to in this passage?

18. Where does Scripture's authority come from?

Read John 8:31-32 and answer the following questions:

19. What does it mean to "abide" in Jesus' Words?

20. What happens when we abide in His Words?

21. What are we set free from? (see v. 34)

Read Acts 17:10-11 and answer the following questions:

22. Why were the people in Berea "more noble" than others?

23. What does it look like to examine the word daily with eagerness?

24. How often did they examine Scripture and God's Word?

25. Do we approach Scripture in this same fashion? Are we eager to receive it and to examine it daily? Why or why not?

26. Why do you think Scripture was so valuable for the people in this community?

Read 1 Peter 1:22-25 and answer the following questions:

27. What is a key aspect in being "born-again" as a Christian? (v. 23)

28. What aspect of God's Word is captured in this passage?

Application

29. What does Scripture and God's Word have to do with being devoted to our campus and reaching the lost?

Read Luke 6:46-49 and answer the following questions:

30. What kind of strong foundation is needed in our lives? What does this practically look like?

31. Why is a strong foundation so important?

32. What could the "flood waters" represent in your life?

33. What specifically could the "flood waters" represent in dealing with our campus?

Read Eph. 4:13-16 and answer the following questions:

34. What kind of "waves" will we encounter on campus?

35. How do we fight against these waves?

36. How do we mature in our walk with Christ? How does Scripture play into this relationship?

Read 1 Peter 3:15-17 and answer the following questions:

37. What are we called to do in this passage?

38. Does this defense include Scripture? Why or why not?

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Recommended Resources

1. The Bible Project (you can find their page on YouTube. There is a video for every book of the Bible).
2. *The Last Word* by N.T. Wright (this is a book on the authority of Scripture).
3. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart (this book will help you better understand the different genres found within the Bible).