

**FOUNDATIONS**  
**HOME GROUP STUDY SERIES**



**FOUNDATIONS**

**JULY - AUGUST 2016**

FGA MELBOURNE  
MEMBER NOTES

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foundations Series Summary	3
----------------------------	---

### **SESSIONS**

Session 1: Scripture Is Important	4
Session 2: Our Lives and Scripture	6
Session 3: Scripture Equips When Applied	8

# OVERVIEW – Members Copy

## FOUNDATIONS

### Series Summary

**Series passage:** *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV)*

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE FOUNDATIONS SERIES

##### **“The Bible is the foundation for our understanding of God and His will”**

While many Christians profess that the Bible is at the core of their faith and their understanding of God, not many know the Bible well. Often times, the Bible is just used to affirm things the person already believes or their own passions (2 Tim 4:3-4).

We are running this series in our Home Group to reinforce our “Year of Scripture”, were we look at the importance of the Bible and it’s transformative power over the whole year. As part of this, we have looked into the Book of Romans, begun weekly devotionals and have completed a series on the Infallibility of Scripture in the Sunday Service. This series that that further by getting your Home Group members opening up scripture for themselves and learning how to interpret and apply it into their lives.

#### **2016 Anchor Verse**

*“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

*(Romans 12:1-2 ESV)*

Our anchor verse for the year compels us to renew our minds, so that by testing, we may discern the will of God. We find out what is good, acceptable and perfect through God’s revealed Word. It is so fundamental, that every other means of discovering God’s will, His purposes and His nature are subject to the authority of Scripture. How well do you know the Bible then? And more importantly, how much of it do you have in your daily life?

**FAITH Emphasis:** This is a teaching series and emphasises “Teachable in Discipleship”

# FOUNDATIONS – Members Copy

*Session 1: Scripture Is Important*

*All Scripture is God Breathed*

**Key passage:** *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV)*

## A. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THE SESSION

Welcome to the first session of the Foundations Series! It's both an exciting and important to have three sessions on Scripture and its importance. Not only has scripture been carefully “God breathed” into the original writers (over 40 authors over 66 books), the Bible we now hold has been painstakingly passed down to us from generation to generation (oftentimes through specialised tribes/groups whose sole purpose was the copying of Scripture).

What could have been so significant that these words would be repeated for thousands of years, copied, translated (again and again into many languages) and distributed all around the world? How did this book survive the test of time? Remain consistent between the multiple authors and time periods AND correlate to real world history?

Regardless of your faith, there is no doubt that the Bible sits as an extraordinary book!

Just think, how much time we devote in a week to much less reliable sources, or less epic words. Our newspaper, the Facebook news feed or the things on TV will likely not even last or stay relevant more than a few weeks (let alone be remembered a century later), while the Bible continues to be relevant and used all around the world for many millennia!

Our hope is that you will grasp the richness embedded in God's Holy Word, and apply it whole heartedly into your life.

## B. MAIN POINT

### **All Scripture is God Breathed**

The Bible stands out as an extraordinary book by any measure. However, it holds out that it is more than that! Unlike any other book, it is “God Breathed”. In it is revelation about God himself. It's important at the beginning of this series, to take a moment to really understand what that means.

If God created us (and everything in this universe), He would have to be so much bigger than we can imagine or see. How would we get to know Him? Only if He chose to reveal himself to us. God does this through many ways (His Son Jesus, His Holy Spirit, nature, our conscience etc.), but the most articulate way is through His Word. In fact, since we aren't walking around with Jesus (also known as the “Word”), we know about Jesus through Scripture (Gospels etc.). Without Scripture, our ability to know and love God would be limited to our own understanding and would be clouded by our own biases (the biggest of which is Sin).

How do you form your views on God? Let's be clear, regardless of what we want to think or believe, God is not defined by our own creative imaginations. His Word describes who he is, and is almost like his love letter to us.

Let's take time to place it in a high level of importance in our lives.

## **C. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**1. Go around the group and ask: "How important is Scripture in your daily life?" or perhaps ask "How much of the Bible have you read?" or "When do you read the Bible?"**

**2. Read 2 Timothy 3:1 to 4:5. What is happening that causes Paul to write these words (in 3:16-17) to Timothy? How is this like today's environment?**

**3. When asked, how would you defend the importance of Scripture? (imagine your child asking you, or your friend/colleague or your siblings/parents)**

### **New Visitor/Non-Christian Take Home:**

Regardless of your level of faith, it's pretty clear that the Bible stands out as an extraordinary book. One that is well worth your time to look at. Why not open it up and see how it has the ability to speak into your life? You might be pleasantly surprised!

## **D. APPLICATION AND PRAYER**

Psalms 119 is an acrostic that is dedicated to God's word. In it the author celebrates the importance and joy of Scripture. Get your home group to pick a verse or two from there and then use it to shape their prayer as you go around the Home Group.

## **E. LOOKING FORWARD**

Next session we look at our lives and Scripture

# FOUNDATIONS – Members Copy

*Session 2: Our lives and Scripture*

*All Scripture is Profitable*

**Key passage:** *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV)*

## A. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THE SESSION

In our first session we talked about the importance of Scripture being God breathed and revealing God himself. This session is focussed on the effect that Scripture has on your life.

All Scripture is profitable for us. It's supposed to interact with our life in such a way that we are better off. But how does it do that? Let's take a look

## B. MAIN POINT

### **All Scripture is Profitable**

We need to know Scripture so that we are prepared when difficult times come along. Scripture can be used for:

**Teaching:** It can tell us things we don't know. Reading books written by other people can provide so much insight into their lives, perspectives etc. However, reading scripture, not only gives us insight into over 40 authors spanning thousands of years, but because it is “God Breathed”, it provides us with insight into the very heart of God.

**Correction:** The opposite of Teaching is Correction. The Bible can correct us about things we think we know. Over time, our biases and our sin warps our beliefs and our understanding of the world and God. Regularly engaging with scripture is a good way of “testing” our values and beliefs.

**Reproof:** Sometimes we need a hard word. Not many people can speak into our lives when we don't want to listen to their advice. The great thing about having an open attitude to Scripture is that it becomes a channel for God to speak reproof into your life. The Holy Spirit can convict us of our sin and cause us to repent when we come against scripture that reproofs.

**Training:** There is so much training in Scripture. Training enables you to go through something beforehand, without having to do it for the first time when it really counts. Stories in the Bible, wisdom literature and advice from Bible authors help us get ready. Think of it as case studies in life.

## C. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Break into FOUR groups and analyse each passage to see if it is useful for “Teaching”, “Correction”, “Reproof” or “Training”?

**Romans 2:1-11**

**Romans 4:1-25**

**Romans 5:1-5**

**Romans 12:9-21**

Read each passage and figure out if there is “Teaching”, “Correction”, “Reproof” or “Training”.

Get each group to present some “Application” or take away points from the passage

2. The list in in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 is not meant to be an exhaustive list of everything Scripture is useful for. What other things can scripture be used for?
3. As a home group project, read Romans 1 over the next couple of weeks. Come back to the group, and share what you have received from Romans 1. How did it provide “Teaching”, “Correction”, “Reproof” or “Training”?

**New Visitor/Non-Christian Take Home:**

What do you use to for “Teaching”, “Correction”, “Reproof” or “Training” in your life? If we are to develop and grow, we need to learn from others. The Bible has stood the test of time as a book for wisdom and counsel. Consider reading it before writing it off.

**D. APPLICATION AND PRAYER**

Take time to pray for understanding. There may be some in your home group that feel like they struggle whenever they open up the Bible. Pray for anyone who would like supernatural help from the Holy Spirit to illuminate scripture.

**E. LOOKING FORWARD**

Next session we look at the how to apply Scripture.

# FOUNDATIONS – Members Copy

*Session 3: Scripture equips when applied  
All Scripture equips us for every good work*

**Key passage:** *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV)*

## A. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THE SESSION

This session looks at how we can interpret scripture carefully. It's not intended to be a course on exegesis or homiletics (the study of interpreting scripture), rather, we have aimed it at the “every day” level. Consider the tools mentioned here as guides or tips for how you can get the most out of your scripture interaction.

## B. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GENRES

**Law:** This contains the instructions and precepts of Moses, such as Leviticus and Deuteronomy. Law is "God's law", and is the expression of His sovereign will and character. The writings of Moses contain a lot of Law. God provided the Jews with many laws (619 or so). These laws defined the proper relationship with God, to one another, and with the world (the alien), as well as for worshipping God, governing the people, priestly duties, what to eat and not eat, how to build the temple, proper behavior, manners, and social interaction, etc. The Ten Commandments are often known as "The Law;" so are Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. In the New Testament, the "Sermon on the Mount" is considered law and the fulfillment of the law, and Paul's calls to the church are law in their literature form.

Most Christians have a distorted view of the law and think it does not apply to us. Jesus repeated and affirmed the Ten Commandments and the Law of Moses. The law points to our depravity and need for a Savior. Without the law, there would be no relationship to God or need for Christ to save us. Christ fulfills the law and thus we are not bound to its curse, but we must acknowledge its role in our lives as the pointer to the Cross and the mirror to our soul.

**History or Narrative:** These are the stories and the epics, and include: Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jonah, and Acts. Almost every Old Testament book contains history. Some books of the Bible are grouped together and commonly referred to as the "History" (Joshua, Kings, and Chronicles); these books tell us the history of the Jewish people from the time of the Judges through the Persian Empire. In the New Testament, Acts contains some of the history of the early church, and the Gospels also have history; Jesus' life is told as history. Even the Epistles have history as they chronicle events. There is also another sub-category of narrative called "Romance;" this is narrative written also as a love story such as Ruth and Song of Solomon.

**Wisdom:** This is the literature of maxims and sayings, including Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. Wisdom Literature focuses on questions about the meaning of life (Job, Ecclesiastes) and on practical living and common sense (Proverbs and some Psalms). This literature contrasts our faulty human wisdom to God's reasoning perfection. Thus, when we live for our own will and not His, we will experience grief and frustration, not because God is vengeful and angry, but because we led



ourselves that way out of our pride and arrogance. This literature warns us of our evil nature and desires. It also includes Poetry (in the Psalms and Songs of Solomon) and parables that Jesus tells

**Prophecy** means past, present, and future, not just the future. This includes major and minor prophets-Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Prophecy is the type of literature that is often associated with predicting the future. However, it also contains God's words of "get with it or else." There are two main types. One is "predictive," as in foretelling an event, and the other is "didactic," challenging others to line up morally or to teach a truth. Thus, prophecy also exposes sin and calls for repentance and obedience. It shows how God's law can be applied to specific problems and situations, such as the repeated warnings to the Jews before their captivity. This is found in the Old Testament books of Isaiah through Malachi, the section of the Bible labeled "Prophecy" by both Jews and Christians. There are over 2000 specific predictions that have already come to pass, hundreds of years after the author's death!

**Gospel:** This word means the "good news" that we received through salvation by the work and life of God's Son, Jesus Christ. When the Gospels were first written in the first century, it was a brand new form of literature. The four Gospels (Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John) contain a bit of all the literary types with the primary purpose of expressing faith in Christ and what He has done on our behalf. In these works, the stories are not necessarily in chronological or sequential order, except for Luke. In this type of literature, we find what is called a "Parable." These are the sayings of Jesus that are narrative and instructional, contained in the Gospels. Each of the gospels presents the teachings, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus in a distinctive way, but not contradictory, and for a specific audience. Matthew was written to Jews, and Luke to Greeks, both with different ways of reasoning and thinking. Think of the Gospels like the facets of a diamond, giving more depth and meaning.

**Letters/ Epistle:** This refers to the 21 letters in the New Testament written to a specific audience that are also practical for us today such as Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, Peter, John, and the first three chapters of Revelation. Epistles are the personal letters from the Apostles to their churches. These letters are both different and similar to the letters of their time. Most challenge the congregation to wake up out of their selfish ways and to concentrate on Christ in specific ways and clarifications. They begin with the names of the writer and the recipient, then a greeting, a reason for the letter, and then the central message or body of the letter; there is usually a closing, just like most letters today.

## C. MAIN POINT

### **All Scripture equips us for every good work**

Scripture can apply to our lives in so many ways. It can show us who God is, it can strengthen our inner man, encourage us, change our lifestyle and our perspective. Today we delve right in and look at various texts to see how it applies in our life

## D. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### **1. Take some time to review Romans 1 from the previous week.**

**2. Break into groups and look at the following texts to see if we can identify the genre and context, and apply it to our life. Look through the different genres listed above for some guidance.**

**Deuteronomy 6**

**Judges 2:6-15**

**Proverbs 10**

**Revelations 1:9-20**

**Mark 2:1-12**

**Ephesians 5:15-21**

**3. If you have time you can try to Exegete Romans 12:2 based on it's sentence structure.**

## **E. APPLICATION AND PRAYER**

At the end of this series, try to get the home group to commit to some regular bible interaction or reading. One avenue is the custom weekly devotionals prepared by FGA staff available on our FGAM App (Dovotionals).

Maybe you can do Bible reading as a home group together and share your learnings on WhatsApp.