

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *(continued)*

TAKING IT HOME:

1. **John chapter 1** tells us that Jesus is the living, breathing WORD of God! As you reflect on your own life and understanding of the Bible up to this point, in what ways have you approached faith and the Bible as a “house of cards” where all things hold equal importance?

What impact has that approach had on your faith in God?

2. In the concentric circles shared this weekend, Jeremiah mentioned that when you hold tightly to Jesus, you can hold more loosely the outer rings because Christianity is not a religion centered on a book, it is a relationship centered on a person! How might taking that approach to faith and the Bible affect how you interact with people who believe differently than you do?

3. As you reflect on the talk from this weekend, anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

4. How can we pray with you this week?

MESSAGE NOTES

Bible Q&A // Week 1

Faith and the Bible:

1. Many people have walked away from faith in God because of what they have read in _____!

2. The Bible isn't the problem, but the _____ and _____ we place on the Bible cause a lot of problems.

Things to help us understand the Bible better:

1. The Bible is not a book, it's a _____.

2. It has a _____ and a _____ component.

3. Each author wrote with a specific _____ in mind.

*Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught. **Luke 1:3-4***

*These events happened in the days of King Xerxes, who reigned over 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia. **Esther 1:1***

But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

John 20:31

2 negative side effects to the “house of cards” approach to the Bible:

1. It damages our _____.

2. It allows us to use the Bible to _____ hurting others.



MESSAGE NOTES *(continued)*

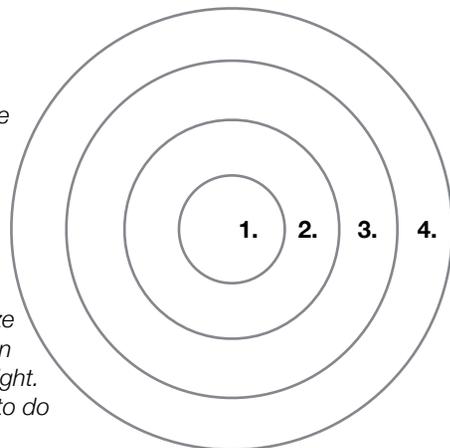
How to approach faith and the Bible:

1. _____.

*In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. So the Word became human and made his home among us. **John 1:1, 14***

2. _____.

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. **2 Timothy 3:16-17***



3. Theological _____.

4. Personal _____.

VERSE TO REMEMBER:

*Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: Love you neighbor as yourself. **Matthew 22:37-38***

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE?

You've got questions, and we'd love to walk through some of those with you! No question is off limits... "Why do bad things happen to good people?" OR, "Will my pet gerbil, Fluffy, make it to heaven?"

If you want to learn more about the Bible, we have some resources for you... just check out: www.westbridgechurch.com/bible

You can submit questions and we'll try to answer them during this series!

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only..." James 1:22

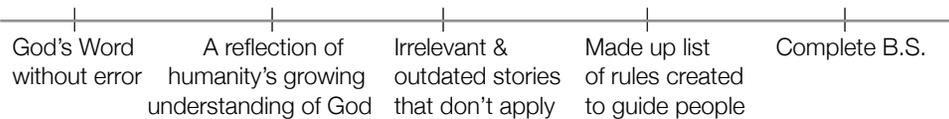


FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We encourage you to take these questions home with you and **WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS.** Bring it with you to Home Church as you discuss how this applies to your life!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Growing up, what did you think about the Bible?



What factors in your life impacted your view of the Bible?

2. How does your view of the Bible impact your view of God and your faith in God?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, Paul writes that all Scripture is "God-breathed" or "inspired by God". In several places, the authors actually use metaphors to refer to the influence that the writings of the Scriptures can have on the lives of people. Read the following verses, and identify the metaphor in each one:

Hebrews 4:12: _____

James 1:23-24: _____

Psalms 119:105: _____

What does each metaphor communicate about how the Bible can impact people's lives? In what ways have you seen these at work in your own life?

2. This week's talk highlighted Jesus' teaching in **Matthew 22:37-38** as the filter through which we interpret and contextualize the rest of the Bible. What are your thoughts or feelings on that concept?