

THE WORD OF GOD

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (Romans 10:17)

This study is designed to help a seeker recognize the Bible as God's Word and choose to make the Bible the ultimate authority in their life. The Word Study can be one of, if not the, most important topic someone will study because it lays the foundation. When people start reading the Bible, it will build their faith and conviction. When they accept the Bible as their standard, they will eventually become disciples of Jesus! Never forget the power of the Word of God to alter a person's faith and eternal destiny.

OPENING QUESTION: *How much does scripture influence you on a daily basis? Why?*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- Where does all scripture come from?
 - If every single word in the Bible comes from God, how important does that make it?
 - Should anything or anyone compete for authority in your life with God's Word?
- What should the Bible be used to do?
 - *Teaching* – transfer knowledge or understanding
 - *Rebuking* – to expose, bring something to the light
 - *Correcting* – the other side of rebuking, to set on a correct path
 - *Training in righteousness* – leading to an obedient lifestyle; becoming like Jesus
- What does it mean that the Bible makes us “*thoroughly equipped for every good work*”?
 - We do not need self-help books or traditions to become what God wants us to be!
 - Do you consistently apply the Bible in these ways in your life?
 - Are you willing to apply the Bible like this throughout these Bible Studies?
- ***Do you believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God?***

Hebrews 4:12-13

- What does this scripture teach about the Word of God?
 - *Living and active* – the Bible is relevant today and meant to be applied in our lives.
 - *Sharper than a double-edged sword* – it cuts with scalpel-like precision.
 - *It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart* – the Bible will expose and judge us.
- ***Are you willing to allow God's Word to expose and help you?***

Matthew 15:1-9 (or Mark 7:5-13)

- What was Jesus' attitude about traditions when they contradict the Word of God?
 - Scripture supersedes tradition, creeds, and feelings.
 - Worship in tradition is “*in vain*” – it “*nullifies*” the value of the Bible.
- ***Are you willing to accept Scripture as your standard, over church tradition, family tradition, your own feelings?***

1 Timothy 4:15-16

- Which is more important, life or doctrine?
 - Illustration: Which wing on an airplane is the most important?
 - Both life and doctrine should be watched closely.
- How important is it for our life and doctrine to align with the Bible?
 - It determines our salvation and helps us impact those around us.
- ***Does your life and doctrine align with the Bible? If not, what needs to change?***

Acts 17:10-11

- How does the Bible describe the Berean's response?
 - *Noble* – a character worthy of imitation.
 - *Great eagerness* – a proactive attitude, “I want to study the Bible.”
 - *Examined the scriptures* – indicates a depth of study beyond just reading.
 - *Every day* – This became a habit for them.
- ***What would it look like for you to imitate them?***
 - Eagerly examine the Bible every day and let it teach, rebuke, correct, and train you in some way every time you read it.
 - Let's set up a time to have quiet time together!

OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES

John 12:48

- At the judgment day, what will be our judge?
 - The Word of God will judge us; not our thoughts, pastors, family, or friends.
 - The Bible is the ultimate authority.
- ***Do you accept the Bible as your standard?***

John 8:31-32

- Who was Jesus speaking to?
 - People who “*believed*” him.
- What was Jesus challenge to those who believed him?
 - *If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.*
 - “Belief” alone is not enough; obedience is what makes us true followers of Jesus.
- ***How does this apply to us?***
 - Sincerity does not equal truth. A sincere person can be wrong. When a sincerely wrong person meets truth they either: stop being wrong or stop being sincere.

2 Peter 1:20-21

- According to this scripture, what role did God/man have in writing the Bible?
 - The Holy Spirit inspired the men who wrote the books of the Bible.
 - Our goal should always be to understand what God intended the text to convey.
 - We can't just say, “that's your interpretation” – God means what he says.