



WEEK 4

Pillar #1 - The Word

Still in Second Timothy, this week we consider the critical importance that the Word of God plays in our lives by looking to an earlier passage. In 3:14-17 Paul describes the power of God's Word to transform our lives and to equip the follower of Jesus with everything he or she requires. No ordinary book, the Bible has the potential to bring wisdom, encourage faith, bring correction and instruction, and most of all lead us into a deepening relationship with God himself!

THE SCRIPTURE

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings⁷, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out⁸ by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

⁷ **sacred writings** – in considering Timothy's childhood, this refers to the Old Testament specifically, but for us today, the application extends to the entire New Testament also.

⁸ **breathed out by God** – literally, 'exhaled by God,' or 'inspired by God,' This phrase is only one word in the original Greek and occurs nowhere else in ancient literature prior to this usage by Paul. The emphasis in his coining this word is upon the divine origins of Scripture.

**WE TEACH FROM THE AUTHORITY OF GOD'S WORD WITH ACCURACY AND
COMPASSION, CENTERING UPON THE PERSON, WORK, AND
GLORY OF JESUS.**

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 4

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Think about how much time do you spend reading the Bible each week. On the line below, mark with an 'X' where you fall. Has this changed over the years?

No time at all

Regular and daily

2. When you think about reading the Bible, what three words best capture how that experience feels for you?

DIVING DEEPER

3. In Verse 14, Paul shifts the focus with the word 'but'. What idea(s) is he contrasting in the surrounding verses?
4. Paul reminds Timothy that the truths he has heard were imparted to him from his childhood. Consider 2 Timothy 1:1-5. Who might Paul be referring to? Is there someone, or a group of people in your life who have had that kind of impact upon you?
5. Looking at your life right now, who are the key people who help you learn and grow in your understanding of the Bible?
6. According to verse 15, what according to Paul, is the single greatest gift that the Bible gives to us? Who is the central figure (see also John 5:39-44)?
7. What is the danger of reading the Bible and not seeking to find Jesus and follow Him? What is the danger of making someone other than Jesus the hero of your Bible Study?

8. Take some time to scan the following passages. What does each add to our understanding of the importance of God's Word in our lives? Jot down a few thoughts for each.

- Psalm 1:1-3

- Psalm 119:9-11

- Proverbs 30:5-6

- 1 Peter 1:20-21

9. Paul uses the powerful image of 'breathed out' in verse 16 to convey that Scripture is God's very own words. This emphasizes its authority and trustworthiness. Understanding this, how would you answer a friend who offers this question this to you:

"Why should I listen to what the Bible says? It's just a collection of man's thoughts."

10. Why are we often tempted to think of the Bible as just God's view or opinion? How does this approach to the Bible keep us from actually following Jesus?

11. At the end of verse 17 Paul tells Timothy that the result of the Bible's work in our lives is to equip us for every good work. How has God's Word helped to equip you for the ministry God has for you to do?

12. Consider the following comment by the Christian educator James K.A. Smith:

“Our culture often sells us faulty, fantastical maps of “the good life” that paint alluring pictures that draw us toward them. All too often we stake the expedition of our lives on them, setting sail toward them with every sheet hoisted. And we do so without thinking about it because these maps work on our imagination, not our intellect. It’s not until we’re shipwrecked that we realize we trusted faulty maps.”

To borrow the analogy, what kinds of ‘maps’ are being sold to us today from the culture around us? Are there any assumptions, or worldviews that currently guide your life that aren’t based on the Word of God?