

God's Word

Bible Study #8

Perspective on the Bible study:

REMEMBER to tell stories and share your own life story throughout this group. If this lesson is "just doctrinal" you've missed something quite important. It needs to be the rantings of a lunatic who trusts, loves, and clings to God's words as given to us in the Scriptures. Will you be contagious in this lesson? That is, will your group members be warmly drawn towards God and his Word listening to you tell of your love for it?

Idea: there is a "31 Day Experiment" lesson that is helpful for getting them started on daily quiet times

EXPLORE

HOOK:

Bring a noteworthy book with you – the works of Plato or Shakespeare or whatever. Set it next to a Bible.

Q Start by asking "how should we THINK about the Bible?" Or, put another way: "How is THIS book different than THAT book?"

(If they say "it's God's Word" ask for further clarification: "ok, if it's God's Word what does that say about how we should think about God's Word?" If someone says, "It's true" follow it up with a question like, 'So what else is true? Isn't your calculus book true? Clarify your comment for me . . . what do you mean when you say that the Bible is TRUE?" etc.)

Q How should we FEEL about the Bible?

(We're not trying to fully answer these questions now, but they will help frame our study tonight. We want to look at how we should think, and feel, about the Bible.)

GOING DEEPER

Have someone read 1 Thess 2:13

Q The Thessalonians accepted Scripture NOT as the word of men, but as the word of God. What was in the lives of the Thessalonians that demonstrated that they accepted Scripture as the word of God?

Q Though the text doesn't tell us exactly, what sort of things might have clued Paul in that they were accepting it as the Word of God?

Look at the first few verse of chapter 1 (plan this part well, these aren't super-easy to find)

1:3 their work and labor and endurance. they acted on it.

1:5 deep conviction -- not just hearers, they responded to it,

1:6 joy about the message in spite of persecution -- they loved it and stuck to it, 1:9 it brought about repentance -- it was their authority, they acted on it

On a true/false test most of us would say “The Bible is God’s Word.” But saying it is one thing – often our lives don’t demonstrate that we really view the Bible in this sense.

Q What might some indications in a student’s life that he or she values the Bible as the very words of God? What might possibly be true of his or her life?

**Share your own story – perhaps an incident in your own life when you began to view the Bible as the very words of God.

Have someone read 2 Peter 1:20-21

Q What does this verse tell us about how we got God’s Word?

Q What does this verse tells us about WHY we should value God’s Word?

Read 2 Tim 3:16-17

Q What does Paul tell us about the Scriptures?

their source? -- from God,
 their purposes? -- teach, rebuke, train, correct
 their result? -- equipped for every good work

Help them with observations here.

**Share a story or two about how the Scriptures have helped equip you for good works

The Bible doubtless talks about its truthfulness, but it also talks about our response to it. In other words, one can affirm the right things about God’s Word, but not respond to it...

Read Ps 119:97-104

Q. How does the psalmist FEEL about God’s Word?

Read Is 66:1-2

Q. Why do you suppose God mentions these 3 traits? (humble, contrite, trembles at his word)

Q What is the relationship between how we feel and respond to God’s WORD and how we feel and respond to GOD?

Q Let’s say a private detective is given the task of finding out how you really think and feel about your Bible. So this person watches you for a week or two, observing what you do with your Bible -- how often you read it,

go to it, etc. They also listen in on your conversations about it. Then he gives a report, based upon what he has observed. **What would he conclude about how you THINK about your Bible? FEEL about your Bible?**

****Maybe share your own reflections on this scenario? What would someone conclude about how YOU think about your Bible? FEEL about it?**

Application

At the start of this lesson I had two books up here and I asked the question “What do you think about God’s Word?” and “How do you feel about God’s Word?”

Q Is there anything tonight that has challenged/changed your thinking/feeling about God’s Word? If so, what?

In sum:

1. How should we *think* about God’s Word? The words of Scripture are the words of God.
2. How should we feel about God’s Word? That they are the words of my creator – they are even now speaking to me. I need them desperately. I tremble before them.

****Maybe share how you are personally doing in learning to love/respond to God’s Word.**