

WHAT IS The Bible GOOD FOR?

MESSAGE NEXT STEPS

IS THE BIBLE REALLY FROM GOD?

OCTOBER 10

When we need clarity, wisdom, peace, comfort, or rest, we have ancient wisdom which can guide us towards what we want. Unfortunately, many of us have given up on the Bible or consider it irrelevant to life. It is true, the Bible has been misunderstood, misinterpreted, and even used for the agenda of people who did not have the heart of God or were a product of their times. When we come to the Scriptures with an open heart and open mind, we will discover God waiting to speak to us and ready to meet even our deepest needs.

Work through the following questions and scriptures on your own, and get together with your running partner, life group, or friends and family to talk through what you are learning.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) What is your relationship with the Bible? Do you struggle with reading it or believing it is from God? Are you skeptical of it? Are you apathetic toward it? Do you love it?
 - a.) Why do you think this is?
- 2.) What stood out to you from the message?
- 3.) What questions do you have about the Bible?
- 4.) The Bible is unique in Transmission. Bruce Metzger, scholar in textual criticism from Princeton says of the 20,000 lines of the N.T., only 40 are in doubt and no doctrine rests on these 40 lines. 40 out of 20,000 sentences. Did you know that the Bible we read today was this accurate? What thoughts or feelings come up for you after knowing this?
- 5.) Read **Matthew 5:17-18**. Jesus believed and read the Old Testament. He said he didn't come to get rid of it but fulfill it and that God's words through scripture have a purpose.
 - a.) What does your practice of scripture reading look like?
 - b.) Do you hold it up as important as Jesus did? Do you think of it as God's word?
 - c.) What might change in your relationship with God and others if your relationship with scripture changed?
- 6.) Read **Deuteronomy 18:21-22** & **Isaiah 45:21-22**. Did you know about all the ways history was foretold through the books of Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah? How does knowing about the predictions from Scripture that have come true affect your faith?
- 7.) What next steps do you want to take during this series on the Bible? What questions do you have that you hope to find answers to? Is there anyone you want to invite to join in with you in this conversation about the Bible and God?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:17-18 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

Deuteronomy 18:21-22 You may say to yourselves, “How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?” If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed.

Isaiah 45:21-22 Declare what is to be, present it- let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no God apart from me a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.

DIGGING DEEPER

1.) Download YouVersion free Bible App (select NLT New Living Translation or NIV New International Version) —Eric Bryant, created a daily reading plan Search “Connecting with God”—it’s a reading plan in the YouVersion Bible App—Connecting with God goes through Luke (who interviewed eyewitnesses of Jesus life and teachings), and Eric included The Bible Project Videos that will help you understand the context. A good place to start. Don’t start in the Old Testament—start with Jesus, God’s clearest revelation. Ask yourself as you read:

a.) Am I willing to listen and follow?

b.) What questions do I have? (join a community group or life group to find answers)

c.) If you haven’t trusted Jesus yet, what holds you back?