

# WHAT IS The Bible GOOD FOR?

# MESSAGE NEXT STEPS

IS THE BIBLE THE WORD OF GOD?

OCTOBER 24

God speaks to us in many ways, but often the problem is we are not listening. One of the ways He speaks to us is through the Scriptures. The Bible is not a rule book or an encyclopedia, but instead “the Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus” (BibleProject.com). When we connect with God personally, the Scriptures become one of our weapons to fight evil in our world and in our lives. The Bible can become a portal into God’s presence

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 have you learned over the past few weeks in this series on the Bible? What questions do you have?
2. What stood out from the message?
3. Read **John 1:1-18**.
  - **Make some observations about this passage (What does the text say)**
    - *who is talking?*
    - *what is the circumstance?*
    - *any repeated phrases?*
    - *what surprised you?*
    - *what stood out to you?*
  - **Make some interpretations (What does the passage mean)**
    - *what questions do you have?*
    - *what do you think is going on in this story?*
    - *what do you learn about the nature and character of God as you read this?*
    - *What do you learn about yourself or the world around you?*
  - **Now make some applications (what’s my response)**
    - *how do you respond to what you are reading?*
    - *what is the central truth that you could put into practice from this?*
    - *who could you share this with for the sake of encouragement?*
4. Timothy Keller said – “The message of the Bible is not that God blesses and saves those who live moral and exemplary lives. The message of the Bible is that God persistently and continuously gives His grace to people who don’t ask or even appreciate it.” *What have you viewed the message of the Bible to be and how has that shaped the way you view God?*

5. **Read Ephesians 6:10-17.** The Bible is described as a sword – a way to protect ourselves from attack by others or even from giving into the places inside of ourselves that don't lead to life. *How has knowing the Bible been a protection in your life? If you don't know if it has, what is an area of life you are struggling in?*

Ask for help from your group or a friend to look up scripture that could help you to “be strong in the Lord... and stand firm”.

6. **Read Proverbs 3:5-13 and Hebrews 4:12.**

- *Do you believe that God's ways are better than your ways? Why or why not?*
- *What does it look like for you to “submit to God” and what is the result of that?*
- *Have you been convicted, challenged, or confronted while reading the Bible? What do you do when that happens?*

7. *What's next? What do you need to do with what you have learned through this series?*

## KEY SCRIPTURE

**John 1:1-18** “In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’” From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.”

**Ephesians 6:10-17** “A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

**Proverbs 3:5-13** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine. My child, don’t reject the Lord’s discipline, and don’t be upset when he corrects you. For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights. Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding.”

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. *If you don’t have community what holds you back from joining a Life Group or Community Group with others who can help you read the Bible to connect with God deeper?* Sign up at: [gatewaychurch.com/groups](http://gatewaychurch.com/groups)
  - If you are in a group, how can you show up more honestly, so they can love and support you in your growth?
2. If you haven’t already - **Download YouVersion free Bible App** (select NLT New Living Translation or NIV New International Version). Eric Bryant has created a daily reading plan in this app. Search for “Connecting with God.” 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.
  - **Ask yourself as you read:**
    - *Am I willing to listen and follow?*
    - *What questions do I have? (join a community group or life group to find answers)*
    - *If you haven’t trusted Jesus yet, what holds you back?*

*Extra Resources to help you grow spiritually:*

- <https://bibleproject.com/>
- <https://youversion.com/>
- *Soul Revolution by John Burke*
- *Fruitful: Becoming Who God created you to be by Eric Bryant.*