

WHAT IS The Bible GOOD FOR?

MESSAGE NEXT STEPS

IS THE BIBLE RELEVANT TODAY?

OCTOBER 17

God created us for a relationship. His love letter, his truth, is available to us through the Scriptures. There will be questions and there will be moments of pause, but the Bible can be the foundation on which we build our lives. The Bible is relevant by helping us understand who God is and how to live a new life under His leadership and with His guidance. Transformation comes when we engage God through the Scriptures.

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.) Which of these 10 reasons for why people don't read the bible have you said or thought (right now or in the past):
 - a.) I'm not religious
 - b.) The Bible is for white Americans
 - c.) I can't get past Genesis
 - d.) It's boring
 - e.) I can't understand it
 - f.) It's full of errors
 - g.) I don't have time
 - h.) It doesn't work for me
 - i.) It is outdated
 - j.) I just don't want to
- 2.) What stood out to you from the message?
- 3.) Read **Matthew 7:24-29**.
 - a.) 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?
 - b.) 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?
 - c.) 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.) There is tension between hearing and doing. In vs. 24 Jesus says everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man... What is something you have heard recently when reading scripture (or hearing it taught) that you have put into practice, or that you need to figure out how to put into practice?

5.) Read **Nahum 1:7** and **James 1:2-3**. Storms test how we choose to live. When life gets hard for us it reveals the strength/ health of the foundation we have built. What have the storms of life revealed about your foundation? Where do you need foundation work?

6.) Read **Isaiah 55:8-9**. Reading scripture is an act of humility, because along the way we have to stop and ask ourselves if the way we live truly lines up with who God is and what He has for us. Where do you need to bring God in about decisions and choices you are making in life? Do you know how to?

7.) What is next for you? Did you start the Luke reading plan? Do you have questions that need answering, who can you invite in or what step can you take to join in with a community that can help?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:24-29 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Nahum 1:7 The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him,

James 1:2-3 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

2.) If you are in a group, how can you show up more honestly, so they can love and support you in your growth?

3.) If you haven't already - Download the 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. 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?