



Before the Lesson

Read the Scripture and overview below before your LIFE Group meets.

Scripture passage: Isaiah 40:8

What is the difference between Biblical exposure and Biblical literacy? Are you like many who have heard the Word of God since childhood, but have never actually taken in the Word, understood the Word, or applied the Word to real life? Apart from Jesus, the Living Word, God's written Word is the single most life-changing force for a believer. It is firm, steadfast, unchanging, transforming, and true! In Isaiah we read, "The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of the Lord will stand forever." In light of this declaration, shouldn't we, as believers, make the Scriptures a more integral part of our daily lives? Shouldn't those who love the Lord really know and love His Word?

This week we will look at this claim: *The Word of God is reliable*. We will look at its source and its accuracy. We will see how it seeps into the crevices of our being and points out prevailing truth we don't want to acknowledge but that we can't ignore. We will see that Scripture is not only reliable, but it is real and relevant. It's not just a book; it's *The Book*. And together we can learn it, love it, and live it as *a way of life*.

Focus question:

Would you consider yourself to have Biblical exposure or Biblical literacy?

Group Discussion

- What do you believe about the Bible? What is the basis for this belief?
- The Bible's origin is God. It is His revelation of Himself to mankind. Read Hebrews 1:1-2. What does this passage tell you about the revelation of Jesus Christ?
- Now read John 1:1-3. How do these verses give further insight, validity, and reliability into God's revelation of Himself through Jesus, the Living Word?
- Read 2 Corinthians 3:16. Describe a time when the veil was removed from your heart and mind. What did God use to reveal Himself to you? How has that changed you?
- According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, what is the purpose of Scripture? Name specific ways God has used His Word to teach, reproof, correct, or train you?
- At creation God breathed life into man (Genesis 2:7), and in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we see that Scripture is like the breath of God in our lives. How have you seen God breathe life into you through His living Word?
- God's Word is truth, not trend. How would you explain this to an unbeliever? Mention verses that would help you support your answer.

- The Bible has unity. It is one amazing story of one incredible hero – Jesus. In every book of the Bible, we can see Him. Take a moment to look at the following resource, then share your impressions.

Christ In Every Book of the Bible

To download, go to <http://warrenlifenotes.com/christ-in-every-book/>.

- The Bible speaks painful honesty into us. Read Hebrews 4:12 and describe what the Bible does to transform, train, and try the believer.
- Will you speak the truth in love to someone in your neighborhood, work, or social circle this week? Tell someone about the validity and reliability of God’s Word. Share a verse with a friend who is having a difficult time, speak the truth of God’s Word to an unbeliever, or comfort someone with the Living Word of God – Jesus.

Further Study (to be used in your personal Quiet Time)

- Take time this week to memorize the 39 books of the Old Testament – in order.

Joshua Code memory verse: John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Family Time

- Practice this week’s memory verse (John 3:16) with your children. Write the verse out in short phrases on slips of paper and hide them around the house. Have a scavenger hunt and let your children find the phrases and put them together to form the verse.
- Talk to your children about the reliability of God’s Word. Read Isaiah 40:8 together:

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

To illustrate this verse try the following exercise: You will need a Bible and a flower. Put a Bible on a counter in your home and lay a flower beside it. Leave both items on the counter. After a day or so, ask your children what happened to the flower. It will, of course, have wilted and will eventually die. Ask them to look at God’s Word. Have them flip through the pages, read a verse or two, and hold it in their hands. Reread Isaiah 40:8 and remind them that the flower was temporary. It faded and died, but God’s Word is forever. It will never die or wear out. It will always be there to teach us, instruct us, and guide us. Pray and thank God for His Word.



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