



Before the Lesson

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

Scripture passages: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Psalm 119

God's Word is vital to the believer. It is like air for our lungs, filling us with life, energy, strength, joy, hope, and peace. Apart from God, we have no greater treasure than His Word. The Bible is the substance of our life and work. It is the confidence of our guidance and instruction. God's Word presents the clarifying call of the Gospel, resulting in our repentance and obedience to Him for daily living.

Because God is eternal, His Word is eternal. It is as relevant to us today as when it was breathed out by God centuries ago. The Word was established by a living God; therefore, as we take it in, we become alive with its truth. God's holy Word has the power to teach us, train us, temper us, and try us. Do you treasure the Word? Do you long to open it and read it? Will you allow the Spirit of God to blow afresh on you today from the pages of this energizing source of life?

Focus question:

Is God's Word a vital source of life for you daily?

Group Discussion

- Looking at the Bible as a whole, what statements can you make about a God who would provide His people with such a marvelous work?
- Do you consider God's Word a vital source of life for you daily? How would an outsider looking in on your life know that the Bible is vital to you?
- How does understanding the origin of the Bible help us understand the vitality of the Scripture? (See John 1:1-5, 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21.)
- What does it mean that the Word of God was "breathed out" by God in 2 Timothy 3:16?
- Discuss the benefits of God's Word as detailed in 2 Timothy 3:16.
 - Teaching
 - Reproof
 - Correction
 - Training in righteousness
- The results of these benefits are noted in 2 Timothy 3:17. What are the results?

- In the final chapter of 2 Timothy, Paul gives some personal instructions to Timothy. He asks for something very precious to him in 2 Timothy 4:13. To what is Paul referring? What do you want when you are facing trouble?
- Turn to the Old Testament writings and read Joshua 1:6-9. What does the passage tell us about The Law (God's Word)? What benefits, warnings, or encouragement do you find here?
- According to the following passages of Scripture, what are some additional benefits of God's Word? What negatives result from an absence of the Word of God?
 - Psalm 1
 - Psalm 32:8-9
 - Psalm 119 (skim this chapter)
 - Isaiah 55:10-11
 - John 17:17
 - Ephesians 6:17
 - Colossians 3:16
 - Hebrews 4:12
 - James 1:25
 - 2 Peter 3:18
- In 2 Timothy 1:6-7, Paul reminds Timothy to “fan into flame” the gift of God in him. How does God's Word “fan the flame” of our hearts? How does it impart in us a spirit of “power, love and self-control” rather than one of fear or doubt? Share an example of this in your own life.
- Describe the transforming power of God's Word in your life. (See Isaiah 55:11, Jeremiah 23:29, John 6:63, 2 Peter 1:3-8.)

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

This week commit to read your Bible for at least 10 minutes every day. Don't let the sun go down without hearing God speak to you personally from His Word. Suggestion: Read a chapter from the Gospel of John, a Psalm, and a Proverb each day.

Joshua Code memory verse:

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live. – John 11:25

Family Time

For a meaningful family experience, plan to participate in our National Day of Prayer event on Thursday, May 7 at the Garden at Warren Augusta. **Go online to warrenbaptist.org/national-day-of-prayer/** and reserve your 15-minute time slot, then bring your family on Thursday. This is a child-friendly prayer event for the entire family.