



## OUR BOOK

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 & 2 PETER 1:20-21

MAY 9, 2021 | PASTOR MATT WHITEFORD



**THE HOME GROUP SPRING SEMESER IS WRAPPING UP THIS WEEK! THIS IS THE LAST SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR THE SPRING. WE WILL SEE YOU IN THE FALL!**

### ACCOUNTABILITY FROM LAST WEEK'S LIVE IT OUT QUESTIONS

**Was there anything you committed to doing after reflecting on Scripture or your conversation last week during your group? Did you follow through with that commitment, what steps did you take, and is there any way we can help?**

### GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER (USE JUST ONE OR ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS TO CONNECT AS YOU START YOUR CONVERSATION)

- 1 What is your favorite passage of Scripture? Why and how does it impact you?**
- 2 How often do you read your Bible? How does reading the Bible daily affect your daily life decisions?**

This week, we focused on our book, the Bible, that we have been given by God. The Bible is unique among all books, but it can be understood confidently through proper natural and supernatural methods. Everything we know about the Kingdom of God comes from the Bible. How does a citizen of Heaven who bows to Jesus as King approach the Bible? When we read Scripture, we need to realize not only that what it says is true, but that it also demands obedience.

### QUICK REVIEW (OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO SHARE WHAT MOST STOOD OUT FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE)

Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard that caught your attention, encouraged, challenged, or confused you?

### DIG DEEPER (OBSERVATIONS FROM THE SCRIPTURE OR COMPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE)

- 1 Someone read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 for the group.**

*<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

**What does it mean that Scripture is "God-breathed"? How does this shape the way you approach Scripture?**

**Why is the divine inspiration of Scripture important? What would change if you didn't believe Scripture was divinely inspired?**

Paul reminded Timothy that Scripture instructs Christians on how to believe, grow, and serve the Christian community. Paul appealed to Timothy concerning the inspiration and usefulness of Scripture in daily life. He first noted to Timothy that Scripture is inspired by God. The complete contents bear God's stamp of approval.

## Why do you think the Bible has multiple authors? Why are there four Gospels instead of just one?

God has a desire to be glorified in diversity. The various personalities of the Gospel writers are examples of how He has chosen to display that diversity in Scripture. Each Gospel tells the same story as viewed from four different perspectives, which means we get a more complete picture of what's going on.

**2** Someone read **2 Peter 1:20-21** for the group.

<sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

## How can we be sure that the Bible really contains all the words God intended for us to have and that we shouldn't seek any further revelation?

As the Bible records, the will and initiative in the creation of Scripture were God's own, "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Pet. 1:21). The result of divine inspiration is that we have exactly the Bible God intended for us to have. Nothing is missing. Nothing is included that should not be there. For this reason, we affirm that the Bible contains the very words of God.

## How is God's authority exemplified through Scripture?

### What does it mean to submit to the authority of the Word of God?

**3** Someone read **Ephesians 4:20, 22-24, 25-32** in their Bible for the group.

Looking at the Scripture above for reference and the graphic below, discuss what you see, how it is helpful to live these truths out, and why it is so important that we obey God's Word, instead of simply treating it as advice from God.

	Put Away	Put On	Why
1	Falsehood	Truth	Neighbor, members of one another
2	Anger	Conflict solutions	Don't give the enemy opportunity
3	Theft	Hard (honest) work	In order to share with those in need
4	Corrupt talk	Building others up	Giving grace, don't grieve the Holy Spirit
5	Bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, malice	Be kind, tenderhearted, forgive each other	As God has done toward you

## LIVE IT OUT (DISCUSS HOW YOU CAN LIVE OUT THE TRUTHS YOU JUST OBSERVED IN SCRIPTURE)

- 1** In what ways have you found yourself guilty of believing the parts of the Bible that you obey and dismissing the parts you would rather not obey?
- 2** What responsibility do you have to regularly read, understand, trust, and obey God's Word? Does your life reflect a trust in God through His Word? If not, what needs to change?
- 3** If what we read in the Bible on Sunday and tonight is true, what do you need to do to obey? (actions, thoughts, and words)

## CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time in prayer with your group.

## FALL SEMESTER WILL START AT THE END OF AUGUST

This is the last sermon discussion guide we will have for the spring. Make sure to plan to get together once or twice during the summer and we will be letting you know in July when the first week of home groups will be – likely in late August. Have a great summer!

## PRaise/PRayer REQUESTS (TRY TO HAVE ONE OR A FEW PEOPLE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME)

Use this space or the back of this paper to write the requests and find a way to share those with the group so you can be praying for each other over the summer months.

## TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in a Home Group. Here are some tips to help make group prayer be a life-giving aspect of your group.

**PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME:** Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request or praise during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next request or praise.

**PRAY MORE THAN ONCE:** If your group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one should be required to pray.

**KEEP PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE:** Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one should be required to pray out loud.

### *How to Use this Discussion Guide*

This guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create a healthy environment for Gospel community, growing in friendship, and becoming like Jesus together. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, please review the guide before your group meets to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel the need to ask every question during your group discussion. This guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help your group grow in Gospel community. In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead. We are praying for you too!

*Visit [cpmodesto.org/groupleaders](http://cpmodesto.org/groupleaders) to download the sermon discussion guide every week. Not in a Home Group, but want to be in one? Visit [cpmodesto.org/homegroups](http://cpmodesto.org/homegroups) and use the Home Group Finder!*

## COMMENTARY

### 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

**3:16-17** "Inspired" means "breathed out by God" (see textual footnote on 3:16). Because Scripture comes from God Himself, it is profitable in many ways, ultimately leading us to righteousness, maturity, and service. All Scripture refers to the OT, but by implication to the writings of the NT as well (1Tim 5:18; 2Pe 3:15-16).

### 2 PETER 1:20-21

**1:19-21** Peter argued that the prophetic Scriptures affirmed the apostolic witness. In essence he was saying, "If you don't believe me, go to the Scriptures." The metaphor of the prophetic Scriptures as a lamp shining in a dismal place means that they act as a torch that shines in this dark world, exposing the dirt and defilement of sin and making it possible to get rid of it. Believers live by Scripture's torchlight until the day dawns and the morning star rises, which seems to refer to Christ's return. "In your hearts" may refer to the glowing hope that occurs in believers' hearts when they see clear signs of the Lord's return. Peter further explained that Scripture is trustworthy because it has a divine origin; men moved by the Holy Spirit wrote the prophetic statements of the OT.