



Join us in being on mission with God!

**OUR VISION**

To continually mature and grow as a united body of Jesus-imitators who live out God's greatest commandment to "Love" by exalting God and serving one another, and His greatest commission to "Go" by reaching into and shaping our local, regional, and global communities.

**Core Values**

Truth  
Love  
Community



**"The Bible—God's GPS"**

*2 Timothy 3:14-17*

**Getting Started**

*After an introductory time, discuss the following questions in your group or class.*

Movies like "The Da Vinci Code," "Angels and Demons," and "Religulous" challenge the trustworthiness of scripture. Some contend that the New Testament was compiled by individuals long after the time of Christ, and contains opinions about God written by men rather than truth from God. Others argue that much of the Old Testament was built around Jewish myth and legend.

- 1. Identify some of the questions that people ask when they are told that the Bible is a book from God.

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**Thinking about Scripture**

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

- 2. If you want to persuade someone that the Bible is God's Word, what do you want that person to read more than any other piece of literature?

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- 3. Who would try to persuade someone to disbelieve or disobey the Bible? Is there anything in the Bible that you do not want to believe or obey? How do you handle these situation?

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- 4. John 17:17 says, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." Why does this say "your word is truth" and not "your word is true"? Does this matter? If so, how?

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*Without the word of God, we would know nothing about God's expectations for us or now to be reconciled to Him.*

**“Inerrancy of Scripture”** means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.—Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI, page 90.

5. Is the inerrancy of Scripture an important issue? Why or why not?

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6. What are some of the problems if you deny the inerrancy of Scripture?

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7. Do you know of any Scripture texts that seem to contain errors? What are they? Have you tried to resolve the difficulties in those texts? Compare Numbers 25:9 with 1 Cor. 10:8 or 2 Sam.8:4 with 1 Chron. 18:4.

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**“Clarity of Scripture”** means that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God’s help and being willing to follow it.—Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI, page 108.

8. If the doctrine of the clarity of Scripture is true, why does there seem to be so much disagreement among Christians about the teaching of the Bible?

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9. What would happen to the church if most believers gave up reading the Bible for themselves and only listened to Bible teachers or read books about the Bible? Has this already happened in your life or in the lives of those you know?

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*The Bible is the  
direct revelation  
of God to Man*



10. Church leaders at the time of Martin Luther said they wanted to keep the Bible in Latin to prevent the common people from reading it and then misinterpreting it. Evaluate this argument. Why do you think Martin Luther was so anxious to translate the Bible into German? Why do you think church leaders persecuted and even killed men who were translating the Bible into the language of their people?

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“**Necessity of Scripture**” means that the Bible is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God’s will, but is not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God’s character and moral laws.—Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI, page 116

11. Do you nourish your soul on the spiritual food of the Word as carefully and diligently as you nourish your body on physical food? What makes us so spiritually insensitive that we feel physical hunger much more acutely than spiritual hunger? What is the remedy?

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12. When we are actively seeking to know God’s will, where should we spend most of our time and effort? In practice, where do you spend most of your time and effort when seeking to find God’s will?

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“**Sufficiency of Scripture**” means that Scripture contained all the words of God he intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains all the words of God we need for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.—Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI, page 127

13. Have you ever wished the Bible would say more (or less) about a certain subject than it does? What subjects do you include here?

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Reaching Up and Reaching Out

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14. In the process of growing in the Christian life and deepening your relationship with God, approximately how much emphasis have you placed on reading the Bible itself and how much on reading other Christian books? Does the doctrine of sufficiency of Scripture cause you to place more emphasis on reading Scripture itself?

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15. Why is it that many look elsewhere for something to add to what is in the Word? Why is it not considered sufficient?

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16. The appropriate response to God and His Word, as recorded in the Bible, is to believe "all that it teaches", to obey "all that it requires" and to trust "all that it promises." Though the Bible is true with or without our response to it, what is wrong when it merely remains abstract words that do not affect our lives? Why is it that biblical illiteracy is so rampant even among Christians? Why is it that the morality of many Christians is not noticeably different than non-Christians?

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17. What are some practical things you can do this week (be specific) to show you value the Bible?

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18. What is your favorite book of the Bible? Why is it your favorite?

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