



“The Word”
Gen 3, Lk 4, 2 Tim 3
Small Group Plan

The Bible is anything but just another book:

***ITS FORMATION IS AMAZING** — coming together over centuries, from different cultures and dozens of writers.*

***ITS UNITY IS AMAZING** — as a library of 66 books telling one unified story.*

***ITS POPULARITY IS AMAZING** — as the best-selling book of all times.*

***ITS REACH IS AMAZING** — as the only book in the world to be read by all classes of people, presidents and paupers, from across all the cultures in our world.*

***ITS BEAUTY IS AMAZING** — being considered by many literary scholars to be the greatest literary work of all time.*

***ITS PRESERVATION IS AMAZING** — thriving and reaching more and more people while its critics pass away.*

Written over a space of 1500 years, by 40 different authors, from three continents, and covering the most significant and controversial subjects of the modern world, the Bible still tells one unified story.

Oxford professor C. S. Lewis, an expert in ancient literature, answering those who say the Bible was just a myth wrote:

I have been reading poems, romances, vision literature, legends, and myths all my life. I know what they are like. I know none of them are like this. With the Gospel Texts, there are only two possible views. Either this is historical reportage, or else some unknown ancient writer without known predecessors or successors suddenly anticipated the whole technique of modern novelistic, realistic narrative. The reader who doesn't see this has simply not learned how to read.

— from *Christian Reflections*

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Describe your respect for the Bible.
- Describe your Bible habits. How do you use the Bible?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

EVE'S CHOICE TO BELIEVE GOD'S WORD

Genesis 3:1

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

- Notice Satan's words — "Did God really say?"
The original temptation was not, "eat the fruit" but "doubt God's word."
- Adam and Eve had a relationship with God prior to the fall.
How would you describe that relationship?
- When Satan calls into question God's words, what else is at stake? Explain.

JESUS' CHOICE TO DEPEND UPON GOD'S WORD

Luke 4:3-12

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." ⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'" ⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to." ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" ⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; ¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" ¹² Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

- Eve talks with Satan, but Jesus does not.
He quotes scripture to Satan. Three times he says, "It is written" (vs. 4, 8, 12).
- How significant is it that all three quotes are from the same part of Deuteronomy?
- What did Jesus do during his forty days in the wilderness?
- How does Satan's use of scripture differ from Jesus' use of scripture?

OUR CHOICE TO USE GOD'S WORD

2 Timothy 3:15-17

¹⁵ From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

“Able to make you wise”

Vs. 15

- How does God's Word shape a life, making it mature and wise?

“All Scripture is God-breathed”

Vs. 16

- What is the biblical meaning of God's breath (cf. Psalm 33:6, 104:29)?
- Why does Paul call Scripture “God-breathed”?

“Useful for teaching ... training”

Vs. 16

- What are effective ways of teaching God's Word to others?
- How is “training” an important step beyond “teaching?”

“Useful for ... rebuking, correcting”

Vs. 16

- What kind of situations would require the rebuke of God's Word?
- What attitude is worthy to hold God's Word and give correction? Explain.

“So the man of God may be thoroughly equipped”

Vs. 17

- How does God's Word equip us for ministry?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- How can the Bible be our spiritual lifeline?
- How can it be a spiritual weapon against Satan?
- List a few of the wisest insights that God's Word has brought to you?
- What does God think when the **Truth of His Word** is taught by someone who does not have the **Spirit of His Word**?
- What is the difference between learning the information of God's Word and receiving the formation of God's Word?
- Allow a time of silent personal prayer and then close with together.