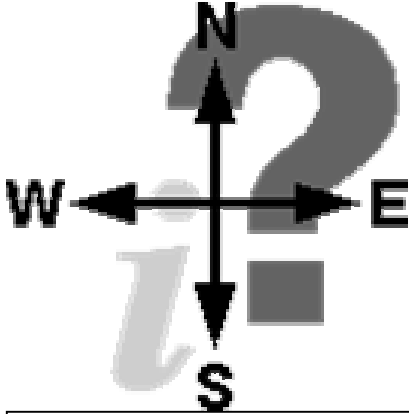


LIFE Community Sermon Notes



Is the Bible really the Word of God?

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work..

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any two edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, September 2

Big Idea: Is the Bible really the Word of God?

Key Verses: see page 1

Opening Question: What is the most significant thing that has happened to you in the past week?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.
Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders notes.

Read the passages.

Discussion Questions

I want to invite you to go on an investigation. By the end of this investigation I want to you finish the sentence, “The Bible is...”

1. If Bruce says that “authority precedes canonicity”. Discuss what this means? How does this affect your view of the Bible?
2. Scripture has a dual nature—inspired by God working through human subjects. How do you view the concept of inspiration? (*Doug shared three approaches to inspiration—remind each other of what those were.*)
3. How did the Canon of Scripture come about?
4. Share with the group which translation you prefer and why. (*Remind yourself about the four types of translations that exist.*)
5. Doug shared 3 (sometimes 4) steps to navigating Scripture: observation, interpretation (sometimes correlation) and then application. Which one of these is hardest for you? Which is easiest? How can you as a group help each other be accountable to do all the steps?
6. Doug argued for biblical intelligence. He defined this as not having mastery over the Scriptures (which is an important step) but rather allowing the Scriptures to master you. Rate yourself as to how biblically intelligent you think you are. Would your spouse, children, closest friends give the same rating?

Bonus Question

1. How do we as Christians navigate the hard line of obedience to the Word of God without worshipping the Word of God?

Leader’s Notes

1. *The challenge of a bible study on the Bible is to avoid circular reasoning by having the Bible argue for itself, but also avoid talking about something without looking at that thing. You may want to choose one way over the other, or do both, just be sure you let your group know which avenue you are taking.*
2. *This study guide assumes that you have in front of you the resource guide prepared by Doug Whallon. Check out www.grace.org and go to the audio sermons section to get that resource guide.*
3. *You may want to ask the group to memorize the two passages associated with this text.*