

HBC Pulpit Curriculum

Three Keys to Understanding Your Bible, by Pastor Kurt Gebhards

II Timothy 3: 14-17

This material is designed to help give you ideas for discussing the sermon profitably and applying the truth effectively. We trust the Lifegroup leaders to choose the questions that will be most helpful to their groups. There is no need to feel obligated to complete ALL the study nor the questions. The reason there is so much material is to offer extra resources and guidance for those who would like to study the topic more fully during their devotion times during the week.

What does God Breathed mean? The inspiration of Scripture

Introduction

Open in prayer and then read 2 Tim. 3:1-17. Interact briefly on this context of our focused study in 2 Tim. 3:16-17 considering the corruption, the threats, the example and the heritage related there to God's perfect Word. Because of the spiritual dangers in our world we must put our confidence in the Bible and believe that it is truly inspired. If we do so, we will find a cure for our spiritual lethargy.

I. The inspired word shares the attributes of God

What is the definition of "inspiration" of Scripture? It is God's authoritative and perfect self-revelation written through the Holy Spirit by human authors.

Discuss the concept: When we speak of someone being inspiring or having an inspirational thought what do we mean? How does the inspiration of God differ from this?

A. Examine 2 Pet. 1:21 and Matt. 4:4 and identify the terms that give us confidence in the Bible.

B. Read and think about Psa. 119:102 and answer the following questions: What does God want to do in us every time we open the Word? What keeps that from happening? When we do get the message from God, how does it affect our lives?[clue – in the first part of the verse].

"God wants to be your personal tutor and speak directly into your life"

C. Pastor Kurt in Psa. 138:2 highlighted how much God values His Word. By implication, discuss how we can value His Word. Be specific and be prepared to encourage accountability in regards to what you identify.

II. The perfect word shares the purity of God

A. Assign Psa. 12:6-7 and Prov. 30:5 to be read in your group and ask your members to identify the words describing God's Word. How do these qualities affect our confidence in God's Word? How should this motivate us to dig more regularly into God's Word?

B. Important definitions: How do these definitions explain why we believe the Bible is God's Word?

- **Inerrancy** – The Bible always tells the truth.

- **Infallibility** – The Bible cannot err.

- **Plenary inspiration** – The whole of Scripture, in every part is the perfect Word.

- **Verbal inspiration** – The parts of Scripture, throughout its whole, are the perfect Word of God.

III. The relentless believer shares the reward of God

Kurt shared that his mom's safe deposit box was not available to just anyone to open. How is it that the Bible might be unavailable or unrewarding to some people? Why is that? Take a few moments to skim through Psa. 119 and identify the rewards that are awaiting the ones who know and understand God's Word.

Read Jer. 29:13 and identify what God wants in us. What is His promise if this is true of our hearts? Can you share a personal testimony when this was your experience?

During July, we have been called to focus on "**Devotion 119**". Over 300 have taken the challenge of reading, meditation and study. Pray for the Worship Pastor of God's choosing for Hickory Harvest. Pray for new Life Groups starting this Fall.