

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 in the week.

Is the Word of God adequate? The Sufficiency of Scripture

Introduction

Open in prayer and then read 2 Tim. 3:14-17. Take some time to ask members of the group to share how they have experienced the profitable qualities of God's Word. Be prepared, leader, to identify experiences of your own to get the group started. Especially identify the change or growth experienced from the early days of one's salvation to today.

I. God's perfect Word is your profitable spiritual portfolio

Pastor Kurt referred to our **Devotion Psalms 119** in his message to illustrate the Word's profitability. Look together at verses 14, 72, 127, 162 and answer the question, How has the Word been profitable to me?

A. What are the two dimensions of the profitable work of Scripture? 1] It works **in** us. 2] It works **through** us in others. How might Sunday's message have already worked in you? Is there a way that the message of Sunday could be used to minister in the life of someone you know? How?

B. Look again at 2 Tim. 3:16 and explain in your own words the four terms used there [teaching, reproof, correction, training]. Which of these four benefits is the easiest for you to enjoy? Which is hardest to receive? Why? What happens if you don't take advantage of all four but rather, pick and choose?

C. Pastor Kurt opened to Psalms 19:7-11 and identified the spectrum of profitable qualities found in God's Word. Underline in your Bible the beneficial nature of regular time in God's Word found in these verses. Why is it that some people do not get these benefits from God's Word?

"The Bible can solve all of man's problems" B. Graham - Why do most people argue with this statement?

II. God's perfect Word is your adequate spiritual equipment

A. Pastor Kurt gave us two understandings of "adequate". They describe two ways people can think about the Word. What were they? How should an accurate understanding of the adequacy of God's Word motivate us to dig into God's Word?

B. Read 2 Peter 1:3. What has God granted to us? What is the power source of this adequate spiritual equipment? How can we gain this resource so that we have "everything pertaining to life and godliness"?

From a practical perspective ask the question, What do we need to do next week to better access the available resources for life? Make a plan and hold one another accountable.

C. The words "man of God" refers very specifically to whom? By application it refers to every believer. What is the implication for our lives?

III. God's perfect Word must be your constant spiritual consumption

Read Ezekiel 3:3 and Matthew 4:4 and explain the consumption of God's Word. In Matthew Jesus was responding to the approach of Satan. What was His point? What can we glean from Jesus' temptation experience there to help us when tempted? Share the Word's importance when tempted.

The candle and the flashlight illustrated two ways to view the sufficiency of Scripture. What will you need to do to go from being a little candle to being a bright flashlight?

Pray for the Worship Pastor of God's choosing for Hickory Harvest. Pray for new Life Groups starting this fall.