

Why Bible?

Week 1 | Change Is Coming

BOTTOM LINE

God desires to change us and He often does that through His Word.

GOAL OF THE GROUP

The true purpose of reading and studying the Bible is for life change. The question is not how many times you have gone through the Bible, but how many times the Bible has gone through you. God desires to transform our lives and He does that through the Living Word (Jesus) and the Written Word (Scripture).

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21, and Hebrews 4:12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share:** Who do you know that is a complete skeptic? Share who comes to mind and their impact on you.
- David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Group, outlines the most significant trends from a six year study done from 2011-2016. First and foremost, "increased skepticism." People have questions about the origins, relevance and authority of Scripture, and the steady rise of skepticism is creating an unfriendly cultural atmosphere. In a society that respects science and rationalism, it is increasingly difficult to accept that an eclectic assortment of ancient stories, poems, sermons, prophecies, and letters written over the course of 3,000 years is the sacred "Word of God".
 - In 2011 10% of Americans qualified as skeptics of the Bible. In 2016, that number had more than doubled. Does this surprise you? Why or why not?
 - Many Americans think the Bible is actually harmful and that people who live by its principles are religious extremists. What barriers does this posture create for those that believe the Bible is truth?
- Kensington was founded on the strong belief that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We believe "The Bible (both Old and New Testaments) is the Word of God, written by men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write down exactly what God wanted to communicate to us." **Read 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:20-21 and Discuss:**
 - Paul uses the words "God breathed" to state that the words of our Bible originated with God Himself. They were written down by authors, but in a supernatural action, these words are from the very mouth of God. Does hearing that the words of Scripture are the words of God give you confidence or fuel skepticism? Why?
 - Compare 2 Timothy 3:16 to 2 Peter 1:21. What role does the Holy Spirit play in both the original writing of Scripture and our study of it today?
- Skeptics say that the Bible isn't reliable compared to the original documents. However, there are several methods used to test the reliability of the ancient literature. The amazing thing about the Bible is that it is one unfolding story line, even though it was written by several authors. **Read Hebrews 4:12 and Discuss:**
 - The Bible is God's pursuit of mankind. God wants us to use His Word to change us. The purpose of God's Word is the transformation of our hearts and ultimately our lives. How is God currently pursuing you?
 - If God uses His Word to preserve our faith and equip us for action, then it is essential for each one of us. Why, then, would we ever neglect reading Scripture?

The Bible is not a dead, archaic book that does not relate to modern life.

The Bible is alive with truths to transform your life.

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TRY THIS

The Bible contains the overall story of God and His pursuit of mankind. There is a flow from beginning to end. The Bible reveals the plan of God to restore and redeem us back to His original creation intent for us. From God's creation intent for us, to our rebellion, to His redemption and forgiveness through Jesus, to our future glorious eternity, the Bible unveils the mystery of our purpose. What did God reveal to you through this group discussion? Pray about the confusion and doubts you may feel. Write down in your journal what you hear God respond.