



Connect with Your Faith

Leader's Guide

Week 3

Topic Week 3: Studying the Bible

Pework Summary: Study these teaching points covered in the teaching video. Notice the time for both the teaching video and testimony video and plan the use of your time accordingly to allow good discussion.

Speaker: Natalie Crabtree, Director of Children's Ministry

Script****

The Bible is one of the primary ways we know God

The Bible is a coherent story, written by 40 authors, in three languages, in sixty-six books, over 1,500 years. There are 39 books in the Old Testament (written before Jesus' birth) and twenty-seven books in the New Testament (begins with the birth of Christ). The Bible is the most read book in the world and to date has been translated into 1,521 languages.

As Christians we believe God exists and has revealed Himself to us so that we will seek him and know him. We see the nature of God in creation, in our wonderfully and fearfully designed bodies, and in mathematics, but the primary way He reveals Himself is through His Word, the Bible.

The Bible is *inspired*: God is its ultimate author. The Bible is *inerrant*, without error: God used human authors to write exactly what He wanted without error. What He chose to reveal to us and to conceal from us is intentional. The Bible is *infallible*: It is absolute truth, incapable of error, and accomplishes exactly what God wants. The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God. Every person who has experienced a life-transforming encounter with Jesus understands the importance and power of the Word of God for their lives. The Bible makes sense of the world we live in, where the world came from, and what it means to be human.

The Bible teaches us how to live

The word scripture refers to a body of writings considered sacred or authoritative. Scripture is the sacred or holy text of the Bible. God is a spiritual being and we get to know Him by reading about how He has interacted with man since the beginning. The Bible assures us God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, meaning what He reveals about Himself, about us, and

about His promises is just as relevant for us today as it has been for thousands of years. Paul tells his protégé Timothy that, “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training.”

Teaching – Jesus taught his disciples and he teaches us how to become like him.

Rebuking – He teaches us right from wrong and rebukes or reprimands us by pointing out our sins.

Correcting – Shows us how to correct our wrong thinking or behavior

Training – Scripture models for us how to be righteous.

The Bible is complex, and we need to study it with others

There are two practices to add to your life that allow you to know God and enjoy the promises He gives us.

1. A daily devotional time. This is a private meeting between a disciple and his Lord, Jesus Christ. It can consist of reading the Bible, meditating on what you have read, applying it to your life and circumstances, and praying to God. Some people find keeping a personal journal helpful to document how God is working in your life through the scriptures.

2. Meeting regularly with a group of fellow believers to study and discuss God’s word. The process of group learning has been happening for thousands of years as Christ followers gather around the table to look at God’s word together. Through this process deeper insights and understanding is gained.

Benefits of studying the Bible with other believers:

-Scripture is our final authority

-Accountability – If we are on the same reading plan, we are motivated to keep up with one another.

-Broadens our Focus – We will all come to the passage with different eyes and backgrounds. - We are more likely to discern the author’s original meaning when working together.

-Building authentic community – When we truly use the Bible like a mirror, we are challenged to be vulnerable with one another. Community is God’s plan for Christians.

-Life Guide – If we want to grow in our faith together, Bible study will be a natural part of that growth as God’s word is a guide to life.

End Script****

Tough questions prep:

How do we know the Bible is not fictional stories?

It is understandable to question the sources, but this book has transformed people, history, and the world. People are still seeking to get copies of it today because of the power of God’s word. It has been found on scrolls in many caves from thousands of years ago and carbon dated for accuracy. But the best way to know is to study it. No other writings are so counter-cultural to living above the ways of this world. Do your research (but not on google) and you will see how much we have to learn.

Ask them to research (not on google but books) and invite them to Connect to the Bible class in the Series

Key Scriptures to Review Prior:

2 Timothy 3:16-18 All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Luke 24:45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

Psalm 1:1-2 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

John 13:17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed by them if you do them.

Class Timeline:

	Estimated time
1. Introduction	15 min
2. Teaching Video	Natalie Crabtree, 5 min
3. Discussion Questions	15 min
4. Testimonial Video	Mickey Lyons, 4 min
5. Takeaways	10 min
6. Prayer	1 min
7. Invitation for next week	1 min

1. Introduce the content and video for this class (in your own words):

Because scripture from the Old and New Testament are uniquely inspired revelations of God and is the standard of truth, reading the Bible feeds our soul like food feeds our body. It brings us to a deeper knowledge of God. For thousands of years, the Bible has been read not only as history and God’s word, but for personal edification. This is meaningful for those that believe in God but also for those who do not. It is full of individuals facing moral choices, life challenges, and situations applicable to our lives today. It is sixty-six books telling one complete story of God’s love and redemption. It’s also God’s Word and reveals to us what He wants us to know about himself.

D. L. Moody, the great evangelist and Christian educator in the late 19th century, summed up the Bible's purpose, "The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives." To really apply God's Word in your life, you can't just read it, you need to study it. When you read you merely put your eyes on the words. When you study, you engage with the words, asking who, what, when, where, why and how.

The Bible is a big book and some of it can be difficult to understand. Today we will focus on why we need to study the Bible, and in the Connect to the Bible series of classes you will learn more about how to study the Bible.

Let's watch this video below and learn more.

2. Play the teaching video. (Natalie Crabtree, 5 minutes)

3. Discussion questions (page 14 & 15)

1. How do you think your life might change as a result of a daily quiet time?
2. Is there a difference in reading books written about the Bible and studying the Bible?
3. If you have read the bible (all the way through or particular books) What plan has worked for you? How did you get started?
4. If you have not read the bible, why or why not?

4. Play the short personal testimony video. (Mickey Lyons, 4 minutes)

5. Closing / takeaways in your own words:

1. The Bible is one of the primary ways we know God
2. The Bible teaches us how to live
3. The Bible is complex, and we need to study it with others

(Say in your own words) Studying God's word and having a daily quiet time will change your life. Make a commitment to begin a regular program of Bible intake by reading it, studying it, memorizing it, and meditating on it. Find the right way to do this through a Bible study small group or other means of connecting with your faith through Bible study. The next Connect series, Connect to the Bible, will equip you to begin or deepen your Bible reading.

Options things to add:

Share some practical ways to get started reading the Bible – through kids Bible's or books, listening to Living Power Online Bible study (Shannon Mullins on Mount Pisgah website), or any daily Bible reading podcasts. TheBibleRecap.com and The Bible Project on YouTube. The Jesus Storybook Bible is a great read aloud Bible for young children.

Remind them not to read the Bible like a book but to start with a book like John.

Most important remind them not to study alone but do it with a group for best understanding.

Or

Have them guess **Top 10 Reasons People Don't Study the Bible.**

1. They read it like one big book instead of a library of books
2. They don't understand how the Bible was put together and why it is this way
3. They don't have a group or person to study and discuss with
4. They don't set aside time to learn
5. They have an old translation of the Bible with words like 'thee and thou'
6. They struggle with some crude aspects of the Bible
7. They think God is mean from reading only part of the story and not all
8. They give up before finishing
9. They try to go it alone. We need community to learn God's word
10. They think it is boring compared to entertainment. (It is much more like food for our soul. It is good for us. We can choose to work harder for good stuff and not look to be entertained.)

6. Close in prayer Use the PRAY model as we teach them to pray:

P = praise – praise God for who he is and what he has done. Use attributes to describe Him.

R = Repent – remind them of their sin and need for a Savior

A = Ask – petition your request for this group to our Father in Heaven including finding people to read the Bible with.

Y = Yield – Submit to God's will with words that remind them to trust Him

PRAISE	Matthew 6:9	"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.'"
REPENT	Matthew 6:12	"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
ASK	Matthew 6:11&13	"Give us this day our daily bread." "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]"
YIELD	Matthew 6:10	"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."

7. Invite them back next week to learn about

Next week during week 4 we will discuss Why Do I Need Church. Hope you join us!