

SESSION 2 LISTENING GUIDE

WHAT THE BIBLE IS AND WHAT THE BIBLE DOES.

2 Timothy 3:16

“ALL scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”

1) The Bible is INSPIRED:

It is God’s Word to us, not our words about God.

Divine authorship through human authors.

“The Bible is the Word of God given in the words of [people] in history.” -George Ladd

God inspired several human authors to write his words down in their language, cultures and context of history.

Confused? Take it back to Jesus.

The written Word (The Bible) has the same qualities as the Living Word (Jesus):

- Divine
- Human

Both the Bible and Jesus reveal who God is and what God does.

In the Bible, God makes himself understandable and relatable.

Ex: Father, Shepherd

2) The Bible is USEFUL:

The Bible is intended to be used to shape and direct our lives.

3) The Bible is God’s AUTHORITY:

- Human’s are submissive to it; it does not give us power.
- It’s not intended to control, guilt, manipulate or shame others.

We need to be careful to use God’s Word with God’s Heart.

“God’s authority vested in scripture is designed, as all God’s authority is designed, to liberate human beings, to judge and condemn evil and sin in the world in order to set people free to be fully human. That’s what God is in the business of doing.” -NT Wright

Conviction of sin is for the purpose of being set free from that sin. It’s lathered in grace.

The Bible isn’t something to be afraid of.

The Bible shows us the way life was meant to be.

SESSION 2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What do you believe are some of the most common misconceptions about the Bible? (to get started...think about it's relatability, purpose, age, etc.)
- 2) Danny mentioned that in the Bible God makes himself relatable and understandable by referring to himself as "Father" and "Shepherd." Share some other ways God refers to himself throughout the Bible. Which of these help you understand God a little bit better? Why?
- 3) *"Let's not turn the Bible into a really mean version of God."* What do you think this quote means? Do you have any examples/experience with this?
- 4) Danny mentioned two "liberation stories" in the Bible. Individually or as a group, list as many liberation stories as you can from the Bible. How many were you able to come up with collectively?
- 5) Why are liberation stories such an important part of the Bible?
- 6) Take some time and look up the other scriptures referenced in the teaching. Read them outloud and discuss what these scriptures have to do with today's teaching.
John 1:14
John 8:32
Romans 12:2
Hebrews 13:8
- 7) What is your most significant take-away from today's teaching and/or discussion?