



## Group Discussion Questions

### FAQ Series - Why do Christians get hung up on doctrine? August 24 & 27, 2017

What was one of your parents or grandparents go to sayings about life? (like: Don't cross your eyes they'll get stuck like that!)

#### **Read aloud: II Timothy 3:16 - 4:5**

Paul writes in 4:3 that there will come a time when people will not endure sound doctrine rooted the Scriptures he mentioned in 3:16, why do you think some people would only want a superficial understanding of their faith? Or of the Bible? The Bible was written and collected at a time when there was only an "oral culture," meaning the Bible wasn't read alone and silently, it was read aloud and listened to in Synagogue or in Church. You listened to it but no one owned one for home use. How has the printing press, computer and the written culture changed how the Bible is read, studied, learned in contrast to the oral culture? What kind of social relationship ramifications does that have for the Church? In what ways does studying the Bible together differ from studying by yourself? Do you ever read the Bible aloud when you're alone? Is that different?

#### **Read aloud: II Peter 1:20 - 2:3**

Notice how the Apostle Peter says almost the same thing as the Apostle Paul after speaking about Scripture he writes (2:2,) "...the way of truth will be maligned..." What Peter is saying is that false prophets understand Scripture but then decide they won't obey it and live it out in their personal lives and thereby malign the truth. They engage in sensuality, greed and exploit people by pretending to be spiritual leaders but are false prophets. Peter is saying we need to be extra careful that we apply Scripture to our lives and obey it. In 1:19 Peter says God's Word is to be "...a light shining in our hearts..." How has God's Word illuminated your life? How has it brought insight into your mind and spirit? How has it changed the way your live, relate to others and make decisions?

#### **Read aloud: I Corinthians 2:11-12**

Paul says we have the thoughts of God because we have the Spirit of God living in us. This does not exclude Bible Study because the Spirit of God dwells in us. It says we have a new dimension of living in and with God who guides us and leads us through the advice, wisdom and commands found in His Word. In what ways has God's Spirit helped you with advice, wisdom and commands?

**Family Time:** Put a plate of cookies in the middle of the dinner table and talk about how we need to eat a balanced diet and it can include dessert. Read II Timothy 3:16-17 and talk about how reading different parts of the Bible is like eating different food. Psalms are songs, Gospel stories emphasize the power of Jesus, Old Testament stories encourage us to have great faith in God. Make sure you eat a cookie!