November 8, 2026
Title: What is the Bible?
Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16 ESV
Series: Long Story Short
Speaker: Pastor Jay Richmond

What is the Bible?

66 books. Approximately 40 authors. Written over 1,500 years. Yet one unfolding story of redemption, centered on one Savior- Jesus Christ.

The Bible is God's word because God is its _____ _____.
2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21

2 Timothy 3:16 ESV
All Scripture us breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

2 Peter 1:20-21 ESV
For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

We _____ Scripture ultimately because we trust the character of God who speaks through it.

Okay, you must trust God and His character, but does anyone here trust me?

The Bible is trustworthy because _____ _____ its authority.

Matthew 5:17-18, John 10:35, Luke 24:27, 44-45

Matthew 5:17-18 ESV
Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

John 14:26 ESV
But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

John 16:13 ESV
When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

We cannot consistently claim to follow Jesus while dismissing the Scripture he affirmed.

The Bible is powerful because God uses His word to bring _____ and _____.

Hebrew 4:12, Romans 10:17, James 1:22-25

Hebrews 4:12 ESV
For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

God's Word Transforms Believers According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The word of God does not merely inform our minds; by the work of the Holy Spirit, it transforms our lives.

At Princetown Church:
We love Jesus by trusting His Word, submitting to its authority, and obeying His commands;

We love one another by letting God's Word transform our relationships so we serve, forgive, and build each other up in Christ;

We live with purpose by being doers of the Word, equipped for every good work and proclaiming the gospel so others may know and follow Him.

11/8/26 Group Questions

Theme: God's Word Is Trustworthy, Authoritative, and Powerful

Key Scriptures: 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21; Matthew 5:17–18; Luke 24:27; Hebrews 4:12; Romans 10:17; James 1:22–25

Central Truth: The Bible is God's trustworthy, authoritative, and transforming Word. Because God is its ultimate Author, Jesus affirmed its authority, and the Holy Spirit uses it to transform lives, we are called not merely to hear Scripture but to believe it, obey it, and live it out.
Leader's note: Select questions based on available time and the needs of your group.

Part 1 — Icebreaker Questions

1. What's something you were absolutely convinced was true as a child that turned out to be completely wrong?

2. If you could spend one day living in any historical period, which would you choose? And what's the first modern convenience you'd miss?

Part 2 — Group Discussion Questions

A. The Bible Is God's Word — Divine Inspiration

3. What from the sermon or the passages of scripture stood out to you, surprised you, or do you have questions about?

4. Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17. What does Paul mean when he says that all Scripture is "breathed out by God"? How should that shape the way we approach the Bible?

5. According to 2 Peter 1:20–21, what role did the Holy Spirit play in the writing of Scripture? How does this help us understand the relationship between divine inspiration and human authorship?

6. Numbers 23:19, Titus 1:2, and Psalm 119:160 connect the trustworthiness of God's Word with God's character. Why does the character of the One speaking matter when deciding whether to trust what is said?

B. The Bible Is Trustworthy — Jesus Affirmed Its Authority

7. Read Matthew 5:17–18. What does Jesus' attitude toward the Old Testament reveal about its authority and importance?

8. When Jesus was tempted by Satan in Matthew 4:1–11, He repeatedly responded, "It is written." What can we learn from the way Jesus responded to temptation?

9. Some people say they admire and follow Jesus but question or reject the authority of Scripture. How would you thoughtfully respond to that position in light of Jesus' own teaching and example?

C. The Bible Is Powerful — God's Word Transforms Lives

10. Hebrews 4:12 describes Scripture as discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Why is it sometimes uncomfortable to allow God's Word to expose what is happening inside us?

11. Read Romans 10:17 and 2 Timothy 3:15. How does God use His Word to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ? Why must the gospel remain central in our teaching and preaching?

12. According to 2 Timothy 3:16–17, Scripture teaches, reproves, corrects, and trains us in righteousness. Which of these four purposes do you think believers most readily welcome, and which do we tend to resist? Why?

13. Read James 1:22–25. What is the difference between hearing God's Word and doing what it says? Why can someone know a great deal about the Bible without experiencing significant spiritual growth?

Part 3 — Personal Application Questions

14. How has God's Word changed the way you think about yourself, other people, or your relationship with Jesus? Can you share a specific example?

15. When you face an important decision, what usually influences you most: Scripture, personal feelings, past experiences, advice from others, or cultural expectations? What does your answer reveal?

16. When Scripture confronts one of your attitudes, habits, or choices, what is your first reaction? Do you tend to defend yourself, explain it away, ignore it, or humbly receive correction?

17. Can you share a time when a promise or truth from Scripture helped you through uncertainty, suffering, fear, or disappointment? How did it strengthen your trust in God?

18. Are there teachings in Scripture that you find difficult to understand, accept, or obey? How do you respond when God's Word challenges something you personally believe or desire?

19. What practical changes could help you develop a more consistent and meaningful habit of reading, studying, and meditating on Scripture?

20. If someone observed your life for an entire week, what evidence would they see that God's Word influences your decisions, relationships, priorities, and behavior?

20. What is one specific area of your life where you sense God calling you to move from knowing what His Word says to actually obeying it?

21. According to 2 Timothy 3:16–17, Scripture equips believers for every good work. How might God be using His Word to prepare you for a particular opportunity to serve someone?

22. Imagine that one year from now you are more deeply rooted in God's Word and more obedient to Jesus. What would be noticeably different about your character, relationships, priorities, and daily life? What is one step you can take this week toward that kind of transformation?

Closing Prayer Focus: Ask the Lord to give each person a growing hunger for His Word, a humble heart to receive its correction, faith to trust its promises, and courage to obey its commands. Pray that the Holy Spirit would use Scripture to transform both individual lives and the church, all for the glory of Jesus Christ.