



## The Core - *The Power of the Bible to Make us like Jesus!*

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### Message to Conversation Guide

1. One of the big concerns for the modern church is a displacement of the Bible. How does the story below, in the OT, remind us that we can have church services without any emphasis on the Bible at all?

#### **2 Kings 22:8-13**

8 Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the Lord." He gave it to Shaphan, who read it. 9 Then Shaphan the secretary went to the king and reported to him: "Your officials have paid out the money that was in the temple of the Lord and have entrusted it to the workers and supervisors at the temple." 10 Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king. 11 When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes. 12 He gave these orders to Hilkiyah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Acbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's attendant: 13 "Go and inquire of the Lord for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord's anger that burns against us because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us." NIV

2. The Bible is so prevalent today that it has become common. However, for much of history the Bible was out of reach for many people because it was so rare that most people couldn't own a copy. Fortunately, through the printing press, as well as the courage of people like William Tyndale who campaigned for the Bible to be available to regular people, the Bible is now readily available to everyone. Discuss the quote below as it relates to the accessibility of scripture to the common person.

*"I defy the Pope and all his laws [lawes]. If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy who drives the plough to know more of the scriptures than you do [said to a priest]" William Tyndale*

3. One of the values of BSCC is to have people know their Bibles so well that they look ultimately to the scriptures for truth. How do the people of Berea underscore this principle that the Bible being the final authority in our daily lives?

### **Acts 17:10-12**

10 As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. 12 Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men. NIV

4. The Bible is practical and not just theoretical. What word in the verse underscores the pragmatic nature of the scriptures?

### **2 Tim 3:15-17**

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. NIV

5. Discuss the list below of the practical areas the Bible addresses. Can you think of more things that should be added to this list?
  - How to deal with sin and guilt.
  - How to manage our money.
  - How to get along with people.
  - How to raise your kids.
  - How to order our priorities.
  - Hope for life after death
  - How human sexuality is supposed to function.
  - Liberation from depression.
  - Social justice.
6. One of the things that we need to be reminded of is that the Bible is a means to an end. We are not worship the Bible but to allow the Bible to point us to Jesus so that we can worship him and be transformed by him.

### **John 5:39-40**

39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life. NIV

### **Luke 24:25-27**

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. NIV

### **Phil 3:7-8**

7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ. NIV

