Hope Church
CLAYTON, NC

The little church with a big heart.

Sermon Notes & Reflection Guide

Date: November 1, 2026

Speaker: Pastor Bob Levins

Title: **What Is Shaping Your Mind?**

Loving God through a thoughtful, daily life in His Word.

Description: What is shaping the way you think, believe, and live? Continuing the series on loving God, Pastor Bob Levins explores what it means to love Him with our minds. Through the instructions for Israel's kings in Deuteronomy 17 and Josiah's response to the rediscovered Book of the Law in 2 Kings 22, he calls us to keep Scripture close, approach it with humility, and let its truth guide our choices. With practical encouragement for slow reading, honest questions, and learning together, this message invites you to renew your hunger for God's Word and respond to Christ with gratitude and faithful commitment.

Key Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4–5 — Wholehearted love for the one God; the spoken rendering includes "mind."
John 3:16, opening fragment — God's love for the world, used briefly to illustrate translation.
Isaiah 1:18, opening phrase — God's invitation to reason together.
Matthew 16:4, adapted excerpt — The demand for a sign and Jesus' response concerning Jonah.
John 14:6, final clause — Access to the Father through Christ.
Romans 3:10, excerpt — The absence of human righteousness apart from God.
Romans 3:23, excerpt — The universal reality of sin.

Deuteronomy 17:14–15, 16 (partial), 18–20 (excerpts) — The king must keep reading God's law, remain humble, and obey it.
2 Kings 22:1–13 (excerpts) — Josiah hears the rediscovered Book of the Law and responds with grief and inquiry.
Job 13:15, opening clause — Trust in God through suffering.
John 3:7, brief excerpt — Jesus' instruction that a person must be born again.
Proverbs 29:18, first clause — God's revelation restrains and directs His people.
Isaiah 1:1, excerpt — Isaiah's vision is introduced as revelation concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
1 Corinthians 11:23–26 — Communion remembers Christ's body and blood and proclaims His death.
John 2:19, adapted quotation — Jesus' promise concerning the temple and three days.
Luke 24:5–6, excerpts — The resurrection announcement at the empty tomb.

Takeaways:
1. Familiarity with church does not replace knowing what Scripture teaches.
2. Approach the Bible with a learner's humility. There is always more to understand.
3. Keep God's Word close through regular reading, reflection, and obedience.
4. Spiritual renewal includes conviction and repentance, not only a powerful experience.
5. Remembering Christ's sacrifice can renew gratitude and wholehearted commitment.

Reflection:
1. What most often shapes your thoughts during an ordinary week? Where does Scripture fit?
2. What does the contrast between Deuteronomy's instructions and Josiah's discovery help you

notice about your own habits?
3. What belief or Bible passage would you like to understand more clearly? Who could help you explore it?
4. Where might God be inviting a change in response to what you already know?

This week: Choose one chapter of a Bible book and return to it each day. Begin with a prayer for understanding. Write down one observation or question, then consider how it speaks to your choices. This suggested practice applies the message's invitation; it is not an announced church program.

Prayer: *Lord, teach me to love You with my mind as well as my heart. Give me a learner's humility and a renewed hunger for Your Word. Help me make time to listen, ask honest questions, and respond faithfully. As I remember what Jesus has given for me, renew my gratitude and willingness to serve You. Amen.*