

4-26-26 Small Group Discussion Questions and Devotional

5-Day Devotional: Grounded in Truth

Day 1: The Foundation of Truth

Reading: Acts 17:1-9

Devotional: In a world drowning in information yet starving for truth, Paul's approach in Thessalonica offers us a lifeline. He didn't rely on emotional manipulation or clever arguments—he reasoned from the Scriptures. The truth about Jesus as the suffering and risen Messiah wasn't Paul's invention; it was God's revelation. Today, we face countless voices competing for our attention, each claiming to offer truth. Social media feeds, news outlets, and cultural trends promise answers but often deliver confusion. Like Paul, we must anchor ourselves in God's Word. The Scriptures aren't just another voice in the crowd—they are THE voice that silences all rivals. When everything around you feels unstable, return to the foundation: God's unchanging Word reveals God's unchanging Son.

Reflection: What voices are competing for authority in your life right now? How can you prioritize Scripture above them today?

Day 2: Noble Character Through Examination

Reading: Acts 17:10-15

Devotional: The Bereans received a remarkable commendation: they were "of more noble character." What earned this praise? They eagerly received the message but carefully examined the Scriptures daily. Noble character isn't about blind acceptance or cynical rejection—it's about humble investigation. These believers didn't say, "Paul's an apostle, so it must be true," nor did they dismiss him outright. They tested everything against God's Word. This is the antidote to our age of misinformation. We don't need to be more suspicious or more gullible; we need to be more grounded. Daily examination of Scripture isn't optional for spiritual stability—it's essential. When you consistently measure every message against God's truth, you develop discernment that protects you from deception and guides you toward Jesus.

Reflection: Are you eagerly receiving God's Word while also carefully examining it? What questions should you be asking as you read Scripture?

Day 3: Jesus, the True King

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Devotional: The accusation against Paul was technically accurate but fundamentally distorted: "There is another king, Jesus." Yes, Jesus is King—but not the kind of king who overthrows earthly rulers through violence. He's the King who emptied Himself, took on human flesh, and conquered through suffering and resurrection. This is the scandal of Christianity: our King doesn't promise political power or earthly dominance. He offers something far greater—transformation from the inside out. When Jesus is truly King of your life, every other authority finds its proper place. Your political preferences, cultural allegiances, and personal ambitions must all bow before Him. This feels disorienting because the world is already upside down, and Jesus is turning it right-side up. Submitting to King Jesus doesn't create chaos; it exposes the chaos we've been living in.

Reflection: What areas of your life are you still trying to keep from Jesus' authority? What would it look like to surrender them today?

Day 4: Reading Scripture Together

Reading: Hebrews 10:23-25

Devotional: The Bereans didn't examine Scripture in isolation—they did it together. In an age when Bibles were rare and literacy limited, the community gathered to wrestle with God's Word collectively. Today, despite unprecedented access to Scripture, we're tempted toward isolated, individualistic Bible reading. While personal study is vital, it's incomplete without community. Heresy often grows in isolation, but orthodoxy is preserved in community. When we examine Scripture together, we protect each other from misinterpretation, encourage each other toward obedience, and sharpen each other's understanding. Your small group, Bible study, or Sunday gathering isn't just a nice addition to your faith—it's essential for staying grounded in truth. The outlier doesn't redefine the community; the community protects the outlier from dangerous deviations.

Reflection: Are you regularly examining Scripture with other believers? If not, what step can you take this week to engage in community Bible study?

Day 5: The Word That Sustains

Reading: Romans 8:31-39

Devotional: Imagine being imprisoned, cut off from all Christian fellowship, bombarded by propaganda, and stripped of your Bible. Then discovering pages of Romans 8 in a latrine, covered in filth but containing life-giving truth: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" This Vietnamese Christian's story reveals Scripture's power. God's Word isn't just information—it's sustenance for the soul. When everything around you screams that you're alone, abandoned, or defeated, Scripture whispers the truth: nothing can separate you from God's love in Christ Jesus. The world offers countless substitutes—entertainment, achievement, comfort—but only God's Word truly grounds and guides us. Like that imprisoned believer collecting discarded pages, we must treasure Scripture as the precious gift it is. In your darkest moments, God's Word will be the light that guides you home.

Reflection: How has Scripture sustained you during difficult seasons? How can you treasure God's Word more deeply today?

Closing Prayer: *Father, thank You for the gift of Your Word. In a world full of competing voices and misinformation, ground me in the truth of Scripture. Help me to reason from it, examine it daily, and study it in community. May Your Word guide me to Jesus, transform my heart, and stabilize my life. Make me a person who lives under Your authority, not swayed by fear or cultural pressure, but anchored in the unchanging truth of who You are and what You've done. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

1. How does the comparison between modern media addiction and the spread of misinformation in Acts 17 challenge the way you consume information daily?
2. In what ways might you be unknowingly spreading misinformation because it aligns with your preferred narrative or allegiances rather than truth?
3. What authority or voice currently has the most influence in shaping your understanding of truth, and how does that compare to the authority of Scripture in your life?
4. Why do you think false news spreads faster than true news, and what does this reveal about human nature and our relationship with truth?
5. How can you develop the practice of reasoning from Scripture like Paul did in Thessalonica when engaging with people who are resistant to biblical truth?
6. What does it mean practically for you to examine Scripture daily like the Bereans, and how might asking better questions transform your Bible reading?
7. In what areas of your life does the message of Jesus as King feel most threatening or disorienting, and why might that be?
8. How does the concept that the world is already upside down rather than Christianity turning it upside down change your perspective on cultural conflict?

9. What role does community play in protecting you from misinterpreting Scripture, and are you currently engaged in examining the Bible together with others?
10. If someone were to observe your life this week, what authority would they conclude you are actually following based on who you are becoming?