

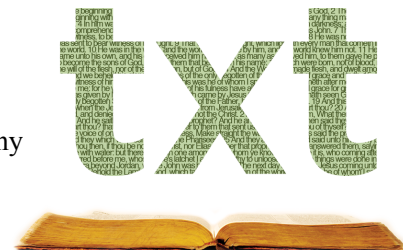
## PART ONE: TXT

At the dinner table. During a church service. In the middle of a business meeting. It doesn't matter where you are or what you're doing, we cannot ignore a text message. So you'll discretely try to pull out your phone and read it. Why? Because they are personal. They are relevant. They convey immediate information. They are from someone you know. We receive text messages on a daily basis. But are we reading the texts sent from God?

**BIG IDEA: To grow closer to God you've got to read the Bible.**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the different ways you try to read your text messages in the company of others.
2. Why do we give so much attention to the text messages that we receive yet pay so little attention to what God has texted us?
3. When have you ever heard something said about the Bible or God without ever checking it out for yourself in Scripture?
4. With your Bible or YouVersion, read Psalm 119:97-105.



*Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts. I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word. I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*  
Psalms 119:97-105

5. The author of this psalm spends a lot of time listening to God and reading His texts. How does meditating on God's word affect our worldview?
6. As you think back on your life, what situations would have developed differently if you had paid more attention to God's texts?
7. *Read Psalm 119:16.*

*I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.* Psalm 119:16

8. Has your Bible already been taken away simply by neglect? What will you have to do get your Bible back? How can you and your group help get the Bible in the hands of others?
9. Would your life change if your Bible were taken away?
10. Do you notice any patterns that develop in your life when you ignore God's Word? If so, what are they?

## MOVING FORWARD

If we had given half the attention to God's Word that we normally give to our everyday text messages, it might have made a huge difference in the way we view most things in life. We may have avoided our greatest regrets if we had allowed the truths of the Bible to guide our lives. Because reading and meditating on God's Word informs our conscience and shapes our values. God has texted us. Are we going to read it?

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week—using the attached bookmark—spend a couple minutes each morning to read a passage from the Bible.

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.* Psalm 119:105

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## GOING DEEPER

1. If you were God and wanted to reveal yourself to humanity, how would you do it? What methods would you use?
2. What was your exposure to the Bible growing up?
3. How would you describe your current perspective on the Bible? What role, if any, does the Bible play in your everyday life?
4. *Read Jude 3 and Hebrews 1:1-2.*

*Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.* Jude 3

*For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.* Hebrews 4:12

5. According to these verses, does God still give new truth today apart from the Bible?
6. *Read Hebrews 4:12.*

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.* Hebrews 4:12

7. What does it mean that God's Word is active? That it penetrates?
8. *Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.*

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.* 2 Timothy 3:16-17

9. What does God-breathed mean to you? Can you think of a word picture that can communicate this 'breathed-in' idea?
10. What four things is the Bible useful for?

## HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS YOU MAY WANT TO USE FOR YOUR TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

**Day 1:** Read Psalm 1.

**Day 2:** Read Psalm 119:9-16

**Day 3:** Read Psalm 119:33-37.

**Day 4:** Psalm 119:97-104.

**Day 5:** Read Proverbs 2:1-6.

