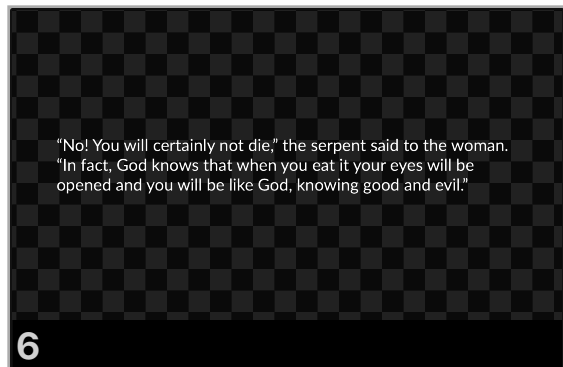
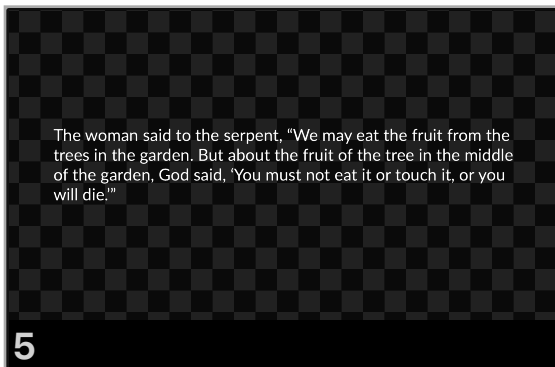
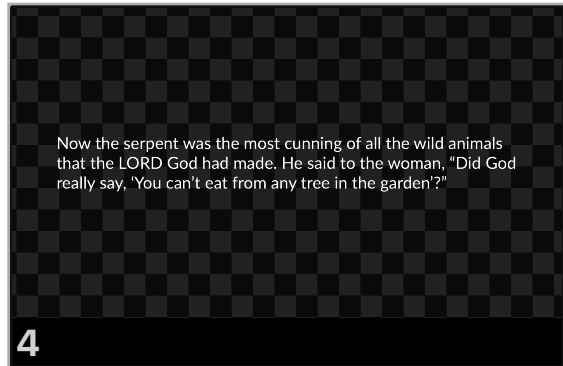
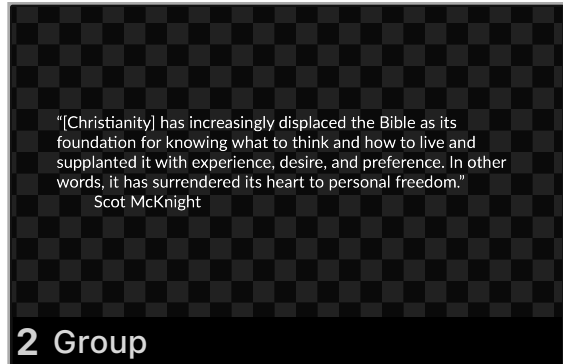
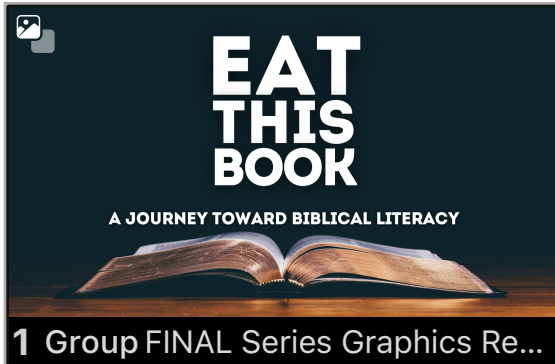


2024_1_21 The Spiritual Authority of the Bible



The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

7

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.
Genesis 3v1-7 (CSB)

8

Sin's basic nature is to fail to trust God and his wisdom and design.

9

"It is clear that we live in an age in which the authority of Scripture in our lives has been replaced by the authority of the self: we are encouraged on all sides to take charge of our lives and use our own experience as the authoritative text by which to live.

10

The alarming thing is how extensively this spirit has invaded the church...in which many among us believe ardently in the authority of the Bible but, instead of submitting to it, use it, apply it, take charge of it endlessly, using our own experience as the authority for how and where and when we will use it."
Eugene Peterson

11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

12

Then the tempter approached him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

13

He answered, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

14

Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down.

15

For it is written:
'He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'

16

Jesus told him, "It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God."

17

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. And he said to him, "I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me."

18

Then Jesus told him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.
Matthew 4v1-11 (CSB)

19

Jesus' trust in God and in his words gave him the power to defeat the devil and remain sinless.

20

The logic of Scripture's authority for us:

1. All authority is founded within God himself.
2. Because God is a relationship of self-giving love between persons (Trinity), he has from the beginning, chosen to vest his authority through persons - in the case of the Bible, through the prophets and apostles.
3. By living under the authority of the Bible, we are choosing to listen to, obey, and trust God himself, who is ultimate authority.

21

Practice: Encountering the Bible as a demonstration of trust

22

- Take 60s and come to quiet – “be still, my soul.”
- Ask God to open your heart to trust his Word.
- Read a passage of Scripture, slowly.
- Observe the context, who is speaking and to whom.
- Think about your own life and how this text might relate to your own heart and desires.
- Listen and engage with the Holy Spirit about the words God may be wanting you “see with your heart.”
- Discuss with God in prayer what he is saying to you through his Word (praise, repentance, action, etc).