

- How does the Berean example of fact-checking Paul's teaching against Scripture challenge us to examine our own acceptance of spiritual teaching today?
- In what ways does viewing the universe as created by God rather than by random chance fundamentally reshape how we find meaning and purpose in our daily lives?
- The early Anabaptists were willing to die for their conviction that personal faith and believer's baptism were essential. What beliefs do we hold with similar conviction today?
- How does understanding that we will each stand before God individually, regardless of our family or national identity, affect our approach to faith and discipleship?
- Paul tells Timothy that Scripture is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Which of these four functions do you find most challenging to embrace personally?
- What does it mean practically for a church to be ruled by the Word rather than by tradition, feelings, or cultural trends?
- How can we cultivate in our children and grandchildren the same love for Scripture that motivated the pastor's multi-year project of writing Bible notes for his daughter?
- In an age of fragmented authority through social media and competing voices, how do we maintain Scripture as our ultimate source of truth while engaging respectfully with others?
- The sermon describes Scripture as a sign pointing to Christ's love rather than being the ultimate destination itself. How does this perspective change the way we read and apply the Bible?
- What specific practices or disciplines could help us move from simply claiming to love Scripture to actually demonstrating that love through consistent engagement with God's Word?

**Day 1: Formed by the Word****Reading:** Acts 17:10-12

**Devotional:** The Berean Jews demonstrated remarkable spiritual maturity by examining Scripture daily to verify Paul's teaching. They didn't blindly accept even apostolic authority but tested everything against God's Word. This noble practice calls us to develop our own discernment. Like the Bereans, we must cultivate a habit of opening Scripture with eagerness, not skepticism, but with thoughtful engagement. In our age of endless information and competing voices, we need this Berean spirit more than ever. Ask yourself: Do I fact-check spiritual claims against Scripture? Am I reading God's Word daily to grow in wisdom? The foundation of authentic faith isn't built on charismatic personalities or popular opinions, but on the solid rock of Scripture itself.

**Day 2: Ruled by the Word****Reading:** 2 Timothy 3:14-17

**Devotional:** Paul reminds Timothy that Scripture alone makes us wise for salvation and equips us for every good work. In a world offering countless sources of truth—social media, cultural trends, personal feelings—God's Word stands as our ultimate authority. The term "God-breathed" reveals Scripture's divine origin; these aren't merely human words but God's revelation to humanity. When we face confusion about life's direction, Scripture provides doctrine to guide our beliefs, reproof to correct our errors, and instruction in righteousness to show us the path forward. Consider: What authority governs your decisions? Is Scripture your first resource or your last resort? Let God's Word rule your heart, mind, and actions today.

**Day 3: Shaped by the Word****Reading:** Psalm 119:105-112

**Devotional:** God's Word is described as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path—not a floodlight illuminating everything at once, but gentle guidance for each step. Scripture shapes us gradually, transforming our character as we meditate on its truth. The psalmist's commitment to God's statutes, even amid affliction, demonstrates how Scripture sustains us through difficulty. Being shaped by the Word requires consistency, not perfection. It means returning to Scripture when we stumble, allowing it to correct our course. Memorizing Scripture plants God's truth deep in our hearts, accessible when temptation strikes or decisions loom. How is Scripture actively shaping your thoughts, words, and actions? Commit today to let God's Word mold you into Christ's likeness.

## Day 4: Passing Down the Word

**Reading:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9

**Devotional:** God commands His people to impress His Word upon the next generation—talking about it at home, on the road, morning and evening. This isn't merely academic instruction but weaving Scripture into the fabric of daily life. The legacy of faith passes through intentional engagement with God's Word across generations. Like Timothy, who learned Scripture from his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice, we receive and transmit this precious inheritance. Consider the creative ways you can share Scripture with those you influence—children, grandchildren, friends, or spiritual seekers. Perhaps journal your Scripture reflections as a future gift, or simply speak God's truth into everyday conversations. What story from God's Word will you share today to help someone understand who they are in Christ?

## Day 5: Living the Word

**Reading:** James 1:22-25

**Devotional:** James warns against self-deception—hearing Scripture without doing what it says. The mirror analogy is striking: we look at Scripture, see ourselves clearly, then walk away unchanged, forgetting what we saw. True engagement with God's Word moves beyond intellectual assent to active obedience. The blessing comes not from knowing Scripture but from living it. When we read about loving enemies, serving the least, or pursuing holiness, these aren't suggestions for consideration but calls to action. Scripture transforms us only when we submit to its authority and allow it to reshape our priorities, relationships, and choices. As you read Scripture today, ask: What is God calling me to do? Then take one concrete step of obedience, however small, trusting that faithfulness in little things cultivates a life thoroughly equipped for every good work.