

CAN I ASK THAT? | FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 2 | PENTECOST 2

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE: "CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?"

OPENING PRAYER

Most gracious Father, your divine plan ensures that whoever belongs to you hears what you say (John 8:47). Your only Son came into our world to demonstrate your truth. Your Spirit continues to speak that truth into our minds and hearts (John 16:13-15). Most importantly, we trust the Bible because we believe in Jesus, and his resurrection is the single foundation of our faith. It is always in his name we pray. Amen.

CONNECTING QUESTION

What was the first Bible verse you remember learning or memorizing? Is it still meaningful to you? Discuss.

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Aloud & Meditate on God's Word: 2 Timothy 3:14-17; John 5:31-40

WATCH VIDEO

Video Presenter: Pastor Tim Runtsch

EXPLORE THE TEXT

Invite the Holy Spirit to lead as you work through the questions in this guide. Cover what your time allows and encourage everyone to finish the guide on his or her own.

1. How is God's Word different than other printed or spoken words? (See Psalm 119:89; 1 Peter 1:24-25, which refers to Isaiah 40:6-8.) In what ways have you seen the power of God's Word?
2. It is believed that 2 Timothy is Paul's last recorded letter. When you read 2 Timothy 3:14-17, imagine that Paul is writing to you instead of Timothy, where he shares his final and most important beliefs about faith in Jesus. List them. Which do you find the most impactful?
3. Read John 5:31-40. Who and what testify and give witness to who Jesus is? What do you learn about God the Father?
4. What is your understanding of Hebrews 4:12-13? What does it mean that the word of God is alive and active? Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV) begins with "therefore." What are the connections the Hebrews' author is making between the Word of God and the High Priest (Jesus Christ), and what believers receive as a result?
5. In Peter 1:16-21 Peter clearly explains the origin of the Scriptures. What key points does he make? How is your

understanding of and commitment to Bible study expanded or changed (refer to verses 20-21)? Should every question of faith lead you to search the Scriptures for the answers? Explain.

6. "In our zeal for the truth of Scripture, we must never forget its purpose – to equip us to do good. ...We should study the Bible so that we will know how to do Christ's work in the world. Our knowledge of God's Word is not useful unless it strengthens our faith and leads us to do good" (NLT footnote for 2 Timothy 3:17). Discuss how the Holy Spirit leads and empowers you to do good in your walk with Jesus through the equipping of God's Word.

ANSWER THE QUESTION

"Ultimately the Bible defines itself, claiming to be a book like no other. The Bible declares that it is altogether different – the holy, sacred, inspired, alive and active Word of God. It is the unique story of God from beginning to end, with one central character – Jesus Christ." (Louie Giglio)

To absorb the Bible's truth, one must travel into its pages where faith, hope, and love can be found. Search for the "God-breathed" verses that speak into your heart. Choose one of the following paths to draw you into God's Word: use a concordance to identify a particular subject of interest (e.g., compassion; wisdom; fear; Messiah); or pick one of the Bible's books for in-depth study (if you are new to studying the Bible, a good place to begin is with the book of John); or select a character whose life demonstrated a personal and deep relationship with God (e.g., Esther; Caleb; Elijah; Luke; Paul).

Record what you learned, including how every word connects you to Jesus. Memorize your favorite verses so you will be able to share them whenever the Spirit leads you to do so.

SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalms 119:18, 49, 89, 105, 130; Isaiah 34:16; Hebrews 1:1-3; 1 John 2:14

CLOSING PRAYER

Most gracious Lord God, thank you for the Bible. Every word, all verses, and each story direct us to Jesus. Let us believe faithfully and speak boldly that "behind the Book (the Bible) was a Person (You Jesus!). In the Old Testament, you were predicted; in the Gospels, you were present; in the Acts, you were proclaimed; in the Epistles you were possessed by your people; and in the Revelation, you were predominant." (Dr. W. Graham Scroggie) Jesus, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End (Revelation 22:13). We believe that we can trust the Bible because "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1). Jesus, it is in your trustworthy name we pray. Amen.

Our Father ...

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