

# Hear *to listen to; give or pay attention to*

What picture best represents how you view the Bible?



Read the following verses and discuss what God says about the Bible and why it's significant.

**Hebrews 4:12**

**2 Tim. 3:16-17**

Everything a Christian believes should rest on the truth and authority of Scripture. The Bible is incredibly and uniquely different from any other book on earth and it alone is the inspired and infallible Word of God. The Christian's identity, confidence, conscience, and lifestyle are developed by the Bible. The Bible is the Christians' greatest resource to combat the temptations of the "flesh" and the world, and it is the foundation of our faith which shields us from the "fiery darts" of Satan. Any believer can speak with clarity, purpose, direction, hope and authority because of the written Word of God

The Holy Spirit enters the process of our learning by turning the Scriptures into the Living Word (Heb. 4:12). Through the Holy Spirit's ministry of illumination, the believer can now understand and apply the truth of the Scriptures to his or her life, or current situation. He leads the believer in making decisions that only reflect God's will and plan for life. The Holy Spirit uses the Scriptures to transform our lives, to convict us of sin, righteousness, and judgment, to encourage, to comfort, to re-direct our thinking, to give us wisdom, to sensitize our conscience of right and wrong, and to draw us into godliness, righteousness, and a holy lifestyle. He builds our faith with the Scriptures (Rom.10:17)

The Holy Spirit's role is to guide, teach and illuminate our minds to understand, and then to empower the believer to apply by faith the Biblical truth to his or her life.

The Christian's role is to be faithful to read and study the Bible. *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."* 2 Tim 2:15

What do you know about the Bible?

What would you say if someone said it was full of errors?

1. It is **scientifically accurate** - The Bible makes accurate scientific claims about radioactivity, hydrology, astronomy, biology, physics and other areas of science. (Radioactive decay, in 2 Peter 3:10. Hydrologic cycles, in Ps.135:7, Ec.1:7 and Job 36:27-29. Atmospheric jet streams, in Ecc. 1:6. Clouds and condensation, in Job 26:8, 37:11. Earth's spherical shape, Is. 40:22. The expansion of the universe, in Job 26:7. Earth's foundation – hung on nothing, Job 26:7. That air has weight, Job 28:25. Hydrothermic vents, Gen. 7:11 and Job. 38:16.)
2. It is **historically accurate** - Real people, places and events corroborated by archeology (here are just a couple of examples). Hitites – critics condemned the Bible's description of this group; archeological digs have since proven their existence. Caesar Augustus' census at the time of Christ's birth (Luke 2:1).
3. It is **prophetically accurate** - There are hundreds of prophetic claims in the Bible which have been fulfilled with dramatic accuracy. Jesus alone fulfilled over 300 (odds of just  $8 = 1$  in  $10^{17}$ ). i.e. Jesus' crucifixion prophesied 1000 years before crucifixion was even invented (Ps. 22:16).
4. It is **textually authentic** - There are many thousands of copies of the Biblical manuscripts that no text is in question. A quick comparison with Homer's Iliad: NT has copies from as early as AD 125 (~25-70 years after written, within life-spans of Jesus' contemporaries). The Iliad's earliest copy is from 400 BC (500 yrs after written). NT has 24,000 early copies (~300 yrs) vs. Iliad's 643
5. It's **continuity** is staggering - 60 generations over 1600 years produced this book. 40 authors including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, physicians, poets, statesmen, and scholars. There is perfect agreement with prophesy and fulfillment, historical facts and sequence. The Bible is printed in over 2200 languages, and is the best seller every year.

What do the following verses say some benefits of reading God's Word are? Which do you appreciate the most? Why?

**Joshua 1:8**

**Psalms 119:9-11, 99, 105, 130**

**Matthew 4:1-11**

What does God tell us about reading the Bible? Why is it significant?

**Deuteronomy 17:19**

**Psalms 1:2-3**

**2 Timothy 2:15**

**James 1:22-25**

What does the Bible claim about itself?

**2 Timothy 3:16, 17**

**2 Peter 1:20-21**

## *Getting into God's word*

Read it.

How important is it to read God's word according to Jesus in Matthew 4:4?

Study and meditate on it.

What are the results of these in Psalm 1:2-3 and Psalm 119:130?

Memorize it.

What is a result of memorizing God's word according to Psalm 119:11?

Apply it.

What will happen to us if we understand but do not apply God's word in James 1:22?

## *The Point*

Read Luke 6:46-49

What is the result of hearing God's word and acting on it?

What are some storms of life (current or future) that you want to be able to survive?

What scriptural truth can you and your discipler find that applies to that situation?

What will it take for you to act on it?

Keep going in this discipleship packet to learn more about getting regularly into God's word. You will learn how to do this the "Connect" lesson.