

Discipleship Mosaic

Table Four {God's Word}

Tell about a time God used His Word to speak to, comfort or lead you.

Complete 1-6 individually:

1. Read Hebrews 4:12 and 2 Tim. 3:16-17 and write down what God says about the Bible and why it's significant.

2. On a scale of 1-10 rate how reliable you believe the Bible is.

3. Read the following evidence of why the Bible is reliable and write down which one you appreciate the most and why.

- 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.1:7and Job 36:27-29. Atmospheric jet streams, in Eccl. 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. Hydro thermic vents, Gen. 7:11 and Job. 38:16.)
- It is historically accurate - Real people, places and events discovered by archeology. Here are just a couple of examples: Hittites – critics condemned the Bible's description of this

group yet archeological digs have since proven their existence. Caesar Augustus' census taken at the time of Christ's birth.

- 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 1017). I.e. Jesus' crucifixion was prophesied 1000 years before crucifixion was even invented (Ps. 22:16).
- It is textually authentic - There are many thousands of copies of the Biblical manuscripts where no text is in question. A quick comparison with Homer's Iliad the second oldest work we have: NT has copies from as early as AD 125 (25-70 years after it was written and within life-spans of Jesus' contemporaries). The Iliad's earliest copy is from 400 BC (500 yrs. after written). The NT has 24,000 early copies vs. Iliad's 643.
- Its continuity is staggering - There are 40 authors including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, physicians, poets, statesmen, and scholars over a span of 60 generations, 1,600 years. There is perfect agreement with prophecy and fulfillment, historical facts and sequence. It is printed in over 2200 languages and is the best seller every year.

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

Joshua 1:8

Psalm 119:9-11, 99, 105, 130

Matthew 4:1-11

5. Answer the following questions.

What was Jesus' habit revealed in Mark 1:35 and Luke 5:16?

What was King David's example in Psalms 5:3?

What does God promise to do if we draw near to Him in James 4:8?

6. Have a quiet time with God. Write down what you learn from the following P's to be ready to share with the group.

- Read Isaiah 40 and make note of the things that stick out to you.
- **Paraphrase:** Sum up the chapter in your own words.
- **Principles:** Write down a couple principles that stick out to you. (Remember to let Scripture interpret Scripture.)
- **Process:** Ask God why He brought these ideas to your mind and write down the things that come to mind. What does this verse show you about God's character? What does this verse show you about mankind? Put yourself in this situation, what would you be thinking and feeling? What does this relate to in your personal day to day life? What is one way you can respond to what God has brought to your mind?
- **Personal Application:** How does the above relate to your personal day to day life? How can you trust & depend on the Lord with it today?

Share with the group something that stood out or encouraged you from your individual time.

As a group talk about tips for having personal daily time with the Lord.

Here's some more tips.

- Schedule it. If your quiet time is not scheduled it will very likely be cut short, interrupted or forgotten.
- Be alert. Do whatever it takes to be alert during your time with the Lord.
- Set up a system of accountability. For instance have a facebook group with some friends and post each morning what you read and what stood out and how you're going to act on it that day.
- Be alone. Spend your time with God alone, between you and Him only. Jesus did this (Matt.14:23). This includes not hanging out with another Christian author.
- Ask questions. God says, "Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great unsearchable things you do not know." Jer. 33:3. Ask questions like, "What does this show me about God?"
- Read it daily. Start with an amount that realistic every day and then continue to have that time get longer.
- Read it systematically. If you read at random, you will tend to read only the parts you like and miss large portions that are unfamiliar or seem uninteresting. If you read at random you will get an unbalanced view of God. Instead, read straight through whole books. Alternate between the New and Old Testament.
- Keep a journal. Writing down what God is teaching you will help you remember it and be able to share it with others. It will also be a place you can go back to and remember how He worked in your life and prayers He answered.