

WEEK 3 | 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 | THE BIBLE IS USEFUL

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does it mean that Scripture is “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”? How do those things make the Bible useful?

Using a tool such as Biblehub.com or Biblegateway.com, look up 2 Timothy 3:16-17 in a variety of translations. For instance: http://biblehub.com/2_timothy/3-16.htm . How does this help your understanding of this verse and the Bible’s usefulness?

Read Hebrews 4:12-13. What does it mean that “the Word of God is living and active”? How does this help you understand that Scripture is still useful for us today?

Read Psalm 119:105. How is God’s Word “a lamp to my feet”? How does that make it useful?

Luke 2:52 says “And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (NASB). John MacArthur points to this verse and states, “Christ was therefore subject to the normal process of human growth, intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially.” What do you think this says about how Jesus used Scripture in His own spiritual development?

Psalm 139:23-24 says, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.” How can you allow scripture to search your heart more deeply? What spiritual disciplines can you practice to allow God to lead you more fully “in the everlasting way”?

Read Ephesians 6:10-18: The Armor of God. Paul states the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. Hebrews 4:12-13 also compares the Word of God to a sword. How are we called to use this sword? Are you allowing this sword cut you to the heart? If not, based on these Scriptures, are you using it correctly? Are you using it on others more than you’re using it on yourself?

Read James 1:22-25. James compares God's Word to a mirror. How is the Bible like a mirror? How does that make it useful?

What are some of the areas that God wants to use His Word as a sword or mirror in your life? To reproof you? To correct you? To train you in righteousness? Are you allowing Him to do that? If not, what needs to change?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How did this week's Personal Bible Study help you better understand how the Bible is useful? Based on our study thus far, what gives the Bible its usefulness?

Scripture is "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" but scripture also says that "the heart is deceitful above all things" (Jeremiah 17:9). What are some strategies we can use to keep our "deceitful hearts" from avoiding or ignoring the teaching, reproof, correction and training of scripture?

In 12 steps programs everyone is encouraged to have a "sponsor", someone who you give permission to speak hard truths into your life. Timothy had Paul. The Israelites had Moses. The Apostles had Jesus. Do you think this model would be helpful in our spiritual growth? Why or why not? Talk about how you might seek, find, develop a relationship with, and partner with a "spiritual sponsor" in your spiritual growth.

Together make a list of the traits that make a person a good "spiritual guide" and write them down. Personally, write down the name of a spiritual guide or mentor that God has put in your life. Are you willing to reach out to the person in the next week and ask them to be your spiritual mentor?

What is the Bible useful for? Are you willing to be used?