

Equipping People to Know Jesus and Follow Him

The Bible

The Bible is the perfect, authoritative, sufficient and purposeful book that guides all beliefs and practices.

Key Verse/Scripture Memory – 2 Tim 3:16-17

- 1) Pray – that God would speak to our hearts and give us a desire to read, study, and trust the Bible
- 2) Briefly review the sermon outline. Have people read aloud a few of the scriptures covered and explain why they are important and meaningful.
 - I. The Bible is the perfect, authoritative, sufficient, and purposeful book that guides all practices and beliefs.
 - A. Perfect – 2 Tim 3:16-17, Ecc 12:9-10
 - B. Authoritative – 2 Pet 1:20-21, Ecc 12:11
 - C. Sufficient – Ecc 12:12, Rom 1:20, 2:14-15
 - D. Purposeful – Is 55:10-11, Rom 12:2, Prov 3:5-6, Hebrews 4:12

3) Use the following for discussion questions:

- a) Do you believe that the Bible is the primary lens by which we view God and the world?

God speaks to us through circumstances, the Holy Spirit, and people. However, the Bible is the primary foundation that all things filter through. We need to take what the Bible says as our starting point in all things, and then develop our beliefs and practices from there. Likewise, Biblical revelation dictates cultural beliefs, not the other way around. In Latin we would say *Scriptura Suprema* (Scripture is supreme)

- b) Are you committed to daily Bible reading and study? How do you accomplish this in your schedule?

- c) Is there anything that the Bible teaches that you don't believe? Is it essential or non-essential to our faith and practice?

Examples could be God's role in creation, homosexuality, marriage is between a man and a woman, church governance and role of Elders. Chapel uses the following phrase to guide or determine important Biblical beliefs and practices:

- 1) In essentials unity – example – Jesus is God and only He can save us
- 2) In non-essentials liberty – whether you drink alcohol or not
- 3) All things in love

- d) What questions would you like answered to help you trust the Bible more?

Further Resources

Paul Little – *Know why you Believe*

Ravi Zacharias – *The End of Reason*

Josh McDowell – *Evidence that demands a verdict*

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