

SKEPTICAL

UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 1 - *2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17*

LEADER NOTES

For the first time in three months, Revelation is in your rear view mirror! For some this is great news! Revelation was a lot of hard work to understand and apply to our lives. We are very thankful for all the hard work that our leaders put in over the last 3 months to help the people in our church understand even the most difficult passages of scripture.

This week we are beginning a new sermon series entitled "Skeptical." This series will not be located in one place in scripture. Instead, over the next six weeks we are going to bounce around the Bible in order to answer some of the biggest questions facing our culture and faith. Now more than ever before, we live in a world skeptical of absolute truth and the claims of Christianity. We hope this series will help equip the believers in our church to answer some of the culture's biggest questions with the truth of scripture. And, who knows, maybe a skeptic is sitting in our midst every week and will be utterly convinced by the truth of scripture and the beauty of Christ.

Please continue to ask your group about gospel connections and conversations. You can complete the form [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY

OPEN THE GROUP BY CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AND ALLOWING A MOMENT FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A PLACE TO BELONG.

START THE GROUP BY TAKING PRAYER REQUESTS, FINDING OUT ABOUT PEOPLE'S WEEK, AND PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER.

OPENING QUESTIONS:

- *WHAT IS "ABSOLUTE TRUTH?"*
- *WHY DO YOU THINK OUR CULTURE IS SO SKEPTICAL ABOUT ABSOLUTE TRUTH?*

SCRIPTURE

TAKE THIS TIME TO STUDY THE BIBLE TOGETHER. REMEMBER, THE GOAL IS NOT JUST TO CONVEY INFORMATION, BUT TO HELP PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP LEARN TO READ THE BIBLE FOR THEMSELVES.

THE POINT

THE BIBLE IS RELIABLE AND RELEVANT FOR EVERY PERSON.

2 Timothy 3:10-17

10 "You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 2 Timothy 3:10-17.

STUDY NOTES

This week we are not only studying the Bible, but the subject of our study is the Bible. What does the Bible say about the Bible? What do Christians believe about the Bible? 2 Timothy 3:14-17 gives us one of the clearest expressions of Christian belief concerning the Bible in all of scripture. In 2 Timothy 3 Paul defines how Christians should relate to the Bible, what Christians should believe about the Bible, and what benefit the Bible has for Christians.

Christians Should Have an Ongoing Relationship with the Bible!

Notice that Paul's first exhortation to Timothy is that he "continue" in what he had previously learned about the Bible. Paul is asking Timothy to engage in an ongoing, continuing relationship with the Word of God. This is a reminder that Christians don't simply interact with the Bible for the sake of gaining one-time information. Instead, we continually seek to understand the Bible for the sake of the life transformation that happens when we interact with God by reading it. So, the Christian cannot hold a "one and done" mindset when it comes to reading the Bible and learning what it has to say. Instead, we have a mindset of "again and again," we will go to the Word of God to hear from God.

The Bible is the Only Word of God.

Paul calls the Bible sacred. Sacred means that something is different, unlike anything else. The Bible is unlike anything else because it's the only book on Earth that is the word of God, delivered to humans. That the Bible is sacred means that we approach it very differently than any other book. We come before the Bible with reverence and intentionality as we understand that when the Bible speaks, God speaks.

The Bible points us to Jesus and makes us more like Jesus.

This passage gives us clarity as to the purpose and benefit of the Bible in the life of Christians. First, the Bible points us to the path of salvation by faith in Jesus. We approach the Bible wrongly when we come to it as if it were an instruction manual about life. It's actually much more than that. The Bible is the revelation of God about the Savior Jesus Christ, and the Bible tells us how we can find salvation in God. Second, the Bible shapes us by correcting wrong actions and encouraging new actions that make us more like Jesus. Understood rightly, the Bible shows us the path of salvation and the way we can progress in the Christian life.

For more resources on this passage click the resources link [HERE](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *Are you continuing to learn the Bible? How are you pursuing that study?*
- *If the Bible is a book about Jesus, in what ways does the Old Testament point us to Jesus?*
- *Why is it important to understand that the Bible is a book about Jesus, not a book about us?*
- *How can we let the Bible correct, reprove, and train us?*
- *What other books have helped you grow in your Christian walk?*

COMMISSION

AS YOU WRAP UP YOUR GROUP, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WE GO INTO THE WORLD ON MISSION FOR JESUS. USE THIS TIME TO FOCUS EVERYONE TO LIVE ON MISSION AS YOU LEAVE.

- **OUR CULTURE IS SKEPTICAL OF THE CLAIMS OF CHRISTIANITY. HOW DOES OUR DISCUSSION THIS WEEK EFFECT THE WAY YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE IN THIS WORLD?**
- **WHO IN YOUR LIFE NEEDS TO KNOW JESUS?**