

## BIG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

### 1.3/4.09 // QUESTIONS I HAVE ABOUT THE BIBLE

#### Should I Trust the Bible?

**BIG IDEA:** Let God speak to you through the Bible.

### // Ice Breaker \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 1:** What book has had the most profound influence on your life (outside of the Bible)?

**Option 2:** What is one of the most inspiring books you've ever read? One of the most "uninspiring" (boring, irrelevant)?

### // Questions for Discussion \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe a time when you were reading the Bible, and something really stuck out to you—it was surprising or changed you or spoke right to you or something about God became really clear.**

**Read Hebrews 4:12**

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

**Why is the Bible foundational to the church? Read Ephesians 2:20, where it says the church is:**

...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

**What proof do you need that someone is telling the undeniable truth? Read Psalm 12:6**

6And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times.

**Television, movies, books and educators often attempt to discredit or distort Biblical truth. Why do you think so many people are quick to believe media admittedly written by "man" over an inerrant Bible? Read 2 Peter 2:1**

1But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them...

**Challenge // Have your group watch a television commercial. On separate sheets of paper each person describe the commercial in their own words (no peeking). When everyone is finished, select a couple and read them out loud. What differences were in the descriptions? Why were there differences when everyone witnessed the same thing?**

**Jesus calms the storm: This is three eyewitness accounts of the same event as told by three disciples. What differences did you find? What similarities did you find? Like the challenge above, why do you think they recounted the same event differently?**

**Read Matthew 8:23-27**

23Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. 24Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. 25The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" 26He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. 27The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

**Read Mark 4:35-41**

35That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and

said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" 39He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

### **Read Luke 8:22-25**

22One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. 23As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. 24The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. 25"Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

### **Take turns reading some New Testament passages about the value of God's Word. Discuss what Scripture does for us:**

1 Peter 1:23

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Matthew 22:29

Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.

Romans 15:4

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Paul in 2 Timothy 2:8-9

This is my gospel, 9for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

Paul in I Thessalonians 2:13

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

Paul, explaining the advantages Old Testament believers had vs. secular or pagan people,

Romans 1:1-2

1What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? 2Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God.

Ephesians 6:17

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Luke 11:28

He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Acts 6:7

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

**Do you think others will be more convinced of the reliability of the Bible by the evidence of the facts or the evidence of your life? Why?**

**// Prayer** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pray that you commit yourself to read the Bible daily  
Pray for understanding of the inspired Word of God.**