

# 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).

## 1.10/11.09 // QUESTIONS I HAVE ABOUT THE BIBLE

### How Literally Should I Take the Bible?

**Big Idea:** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved...  
who correctly handles the word of truth.

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

**Option 1:** Share an example of when you took something literally when you should have taken it figuratively.

**Option 2:** Describe something in the room without using literal terms.

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

Brett used an example of an expression, "It's raining cats and dogs" to show that we sometimes speak figuratively, when it would be just as easy to say, "It's raining heavily." Why do you think a speaker or author sometimes uses expressions figuratively?

**Why do we sometimes use poetic types of speech to describe an action?**

**Read Romans 10:15**

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

**If someone asks you, "Do you take the Bible literally?" how could you reframe the question so that you could answer it?**

**Humbly we have to admit that our understanding of Scripture could be wrong, biased, or culturally influenced. Give an example of when you or someone you know twisted or "tweaked" Bible scripture to justify one's actions. What were the results?**

**Read 2 Peter 3:16**

His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

**Like in 2 Peter 3:16 above, we can read scripture for the first time, and be ignorant or unknowing of what the words are--but with understanding of what the author meant, we can usually understand its meaning. What did Paul mean when he wrote, "The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life?"**

**Read 2 Corinthians 3:6**

6He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

**If Jesus was not speaking literally in the following scriptures, what did He mean?**

**Read Matthew 10:38**

"...anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."

**Read Matthew 4:4**

'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

**Read John 2:19**

"Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

**Read John 3:3**

"I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

**How do you know that Jesus was not speaking figuratively in the following scriptures?**

**Read Mark 16:15**

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

**Read Matthew 4:7**

'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

**Read Mark 2:17**

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

**Read John 3:11-13**

"I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man."

**// Application**\_\_\_\_\_

**Read and commit to memory 2 Timothy 2:15, the BiG iDEA:**

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

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

**Pray that you have discernment between the literal and figurative Word of God.**

**Pray for wisdom and truth on how to answer people when asked questions about the Bible.**