

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).

1.17/18.09 // QUESTIONS I HAVE ABOUT THE BIBLE

Why do I need the Bible?

BiG iDEA: Study God's Word to renew your mind and transform your life.

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: Share an example of a specific situation in your life when you found direction in the Bible. What advice or guidance or healing did you receive from it?

Option 2: What were your study habits like in high school?

// Questions for Discussion _____

How do you think reading the Bible "devotionally" is different than studying the Bible?

What translation/version of the Bible do you prefer to read devotionally? Which version do you use most for study? Why?

Do you know someone who's educated beyond their level of obedience? Do you know of someone who knew what the Bible said, but chose not to do what it said? What happened?

Read James 1:22-25

22Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. **23**Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror **24**and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. **25**But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

Brett talked about both positive and negative role models in the Bible. What are some examples of both? What can we learn from them; how can they be applied to your life?

What are some problems addressed in the Bible that can be looked at as examples of what to do in situations that occur today?

You can you ask yourself questions as you dig into the Bible that will help you gain insight and understanding...questions like: "Is there a behavior I need to change; a sin I need to confess; a truth I need to believe? Can you think of other questions?"

The Bible is full of knowledge and wisdom from and about God. How important does the Bible say our pursuit of wisdom, knowledge and understanding is? How does it benefit our life and our eternity? Read Proverbs 8:10-21

"Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold,

for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her

"I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion.

To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power.

By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just;

by me princes govern, and all nobles who rule on earth.

I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.

With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity.

My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver.

I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice,

bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.

What should your attitude be toward the Bible and what it can do in your life if you really commit to reading it daily and searching for God's answers and guidance?

Read Matthew 4:4

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

Read Colossians 3:16

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

Read 1Thessalonians 1:8

"And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere"....

Read John 2:3-6

"And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

The Bible is made up of two "testaments" – which means "covenants," or like a "last will and testament." Just like when a person is not physically here, and wants to make sure his wishes are carried out correctly, the Bible is God's directions for what to do, how to do it right, and why. How does this concept apply to the New Testament that Jesus gives us? What does it do to the previous (Old) covenant? Can anything be added/subtracted/changed in someone's "will"?

Read Hebrews 8:6-13

6But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. **7**For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. **8**But God found fault with the people and said: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant.... **13**By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

Read Hebrews 9:15-18

15For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. **16**In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, **17**because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. **18**This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood [of animal sacrifices].

Food for thought

The Bible directs us through the subjective matters of conscience and social opinion. Its message is cross-cultural and counter-cultural. Its claims of authority are supported by historical evidence. Its counsel has stood the test of time. It can be trusted.

// Application_____

- **Commit to memory Romans 12:2**

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- **Read the Bible daily, and increase the percentage of Southpoint members to at least 50% reading daily.**
- I'm going to read through the New Testament by Easter Sunday [=3 chapters per day]**
- I'm going to read through the New Testament 2 times before 2010. [=1-2 chapters per day]**
- **Get a good, understandable Study Bible, like the NIV Study Bible.**
- **Browse the Southpoint Compass Bookstore, and Family Christian Store (near Southland Mall, on Eureka Rd.)**

// Prayer_____

**Pray for God to change your life through His word as you commit to read the Bible daily.
Pray for God to help you live in purpose and become who God made you to be.**