

What is The Bible?

Authority

Inspiration

Revelation

Part II

Inspiration

Overview

The Bible is not straightforward or simple; understandably many find it difficult to understand. The good news is, with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Ephesians 1:17) it becomes the AIR we breathe! This session helps a small group leader facilitate a discussion about the inspiration of scripture, exploring what this means and how we can be better inspired by it.

Objectives

The aims of this session are to

- Appreciate how the Bible was inspired.
- Understand why that's important and what that means to the way we treat it.
- To encourage all to be inspired by it again, for today.

Question Led Discussion

God's word could have come to us in many ways: a gift written by God, a dictation to men or people moved by the Spirit to record their history and thinking. What would be the pros and cons of receiving it in each way?

- A gift would be clear, but could become an idol and be worshiped. Does that happen today?
- A dictation would again be absolutely clear and unambiguous but the people hearing could be elevated too highly as 'special' people worthy of even worship maybe.
- At first, the idea of men recording their revelations seems fraught with danger! But less so when inspired by the Spirit.

Can you see why God *chose* the latter? Can you think of a better way?

- The more we wonder, the more beautiful this option becomes.
- God gave us of this earth and committed not to do anything here unless He first reveals it to His servants (Amos 3:7).
- It means we can grapple with the scriptures and not simply treat them as a rulebook to be obeyed. They become a tool to help us engage with and encounter the Lord rather than an icon.
- It elevates the role of men and women to be His true co-workers, seated with Him. He really does trust us!
- It allows us freedom! We are not forced to believe; we can ignore the Bible or, if we grapple, be inspired by it.

The Bible is God breathed, but must we demand it is inerrant?

- Some argue if it is wrong regarding one historical or scientific fact, it is unreliable and therefore untrustworthy. Do you agree?
- The method of writing, copying and collecting the books suggests God wasn't very interested in us knowing it is inerrant.
- The stories are, arguably, some of the most inspirational parts of the Bible. The Prodigal Son, The Two Builders, The Parable of The Sower, etc. Jesus liked stories! Creation is a powerful and life-giving story regardless of the scientific facts.

Materials

These books and blogs may prove helpful

📖 A Test of Time by David Rohl, for history of Israel

📖 Surprised by Scripture by Tom Wright

📖 www.therebelgod.com by Derek Flood

Application

The Bible is inspired to reveal love at the centre of the universe. Love is the most powerful inspiration and draws us to itself, but the Bible wasn't given so we don't have to think. It demands we think through what it's saying. It needs meditating on and the more we meditate on it the greater inspiration we receive. The longest Psalm is all about this: 119:15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 148

What time do you give to meditation on the Bible? And what scriptures have inspired you and why?

📖 Get the group to give personal testimonies and read those scriptures together.

How has the Bible equipped you for good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17)?

📖 How has it inspired you to work with God to bring a little of heaven to earth?

📖 Or what dream has it inspired that you have yet to accomplish?