

“The Unbreakable Word”

John 10:30-42

10/10/21

Discussion Questions

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. I’ve provided two versions of the verse. Sometimes you can get at the meaning of a passage better by reading it in more than one translation. Reflect on the benefits of reading the Bible and letting it saturate your mind.

NIV (New International Version)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

NLT (New Living Translation)

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.
(NLT)

Read over the questions before you begin and have the group decide which ones have the highest priority for your discussion time. Tackle those first. Discuss the others if you have time but do not feel you have to discuss them all! (I mean, what if I had written 50 questions!?)

1. What is your view of scripture? When people say, “It is the inspired Word of God,” what does that mean to you?
2. There are a lot of terms tossed about regarding the inspiration, truthfulness, and authority of the Bible. Here are the main ones and their definition.

Inspiration: It was the actions of the Holy Spirit that enabled the writers of Scripture to faithfully preserve divine revelation so what they wrote was effectively the Word of God.

Authority: The Bible has the right to proscribe the beliefs and actions of believers.

Inerrancy: The Bible has no errors or the Bible has no errors in what it teaches.

Infallibility: The Bible will accomplish its purpose.

Sounds pretty heady! Christians have gotten into a lot of heated discussions on these various terms and what is meant by them. The least controversial is the inspiration of scripture. In the Old Testament, every time a prophet spoke the “Word of the Lord” or wrote down instruction from God they made it clear that the author was God and not them. In the New Testament, everything written or preached was based on the teachings of Jesus who is referred to as “*the Word became flesh.*” John 1:14. You can’t get more inspired than that, coming from the very mouth of God!

Peter says it the best when it comes to the inspiration of Scripture:

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“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1:20-21

The only questions people have about the inspiration of scripture is on how well preserved is the scripture? Has it been corrupted over time or not? The other question focuses on who and what was inspired and the degree of control God had over the writers. Did God dictate the Bible word for word or did God inspire the writers to write the message of God but in their own words?

Nearly every believer I now also believes the Bible has the right to proscribe what we believe and how we live. The controversy has been largely over the meaning of inerrancy. Is the Bible free from errors on all matters, including history, science, and grammatical matters or is it free from error on matters of faith and life only?

You probably got an idea as to where Pastor Richard stands on this issue. What is your view of inerrancy? Does a person’s view of inerrancy make any difference in their lives or the lives of others? Is this a topic worth even debating? Are we making the same mistake 12th Century theologians made when they argued over how many angels could rest on the head of a pin?

3. Jesus made it clear that all of Scripture is the inspired Word of God and ought to be read, believed, and obeyed. Though all parts are inspired, not every part is equally inspiring. What parts of the Bible have you found to be the most inspiring for you and what parts do you find least inspiring?
4. Name one “hard teaching of Jesus” or “hard saying of the Old Testament” that you’d like to better understand. Maybe your group can do a deep dive during the week and at your next gathering discuss what you learned.
5. When it comes to the authority, reliability, and truthfulness of the Bible, what questions or struggles do you have?
6. When it comes to the daily reading of the Bible, what questions or struggles do you have?
7. Pastor Richard mentioned a lot of benefits for reading the Bible daily over a lifetime. What were they, and do you have any to add from your experience?

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8. From your experience, do you get more out of the Bible by doing a “fly by,” read it fast so you can get a good overview of its content, or by doing a “deep dive,” read it slowly so you can meditate on a small portion of scripture, without regard to how long it’ll take to read the whole Bible?

9. Share a time that you stood up for something or against something because, armed with the Word of God, you knew what was right and what was wrong, and the Bible gave you the confidence you needed to make that stand.

10. Christians get themselves into all kinds of trouble when they “uphold the Word of God” while breaking the Word of God. Share examples where you think Christians are right on the issue but wrong in how they communicate or seek to enforce that stance.

11. Pastor Richard shared two reasons we make obedience to the Word of God harder than it has to be. Reflect on the two reasons he gave: 1. People are cynical when it comes to the promises attached to obedience. 2. Past failures.

Now, after you discuss the above, add a few of your own. Why do people struggle to obey God in all things?

12. React to this statement: “A mistake many Christians make is they are trusting in their obedience to the Word of God for their salvation rather than trusting in the message of the Bible for their salvation.” What’s the difference? Have you made that mistake in your walk with God?

13. Read the passage below and reflect on what it says about living in obedience to God.

“They (Our parents) disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”
Hebrews 10:10-11

14. Final thoughts.

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If you've never read the Bible consider making it a goal to accomplish in 2022. Perhaps your entire small group would like to take up that challenge and then use the small group time to discuss what you read each week or between each meeting..

If you do decide to read the Bible in a year or just over a year, go to the church website and look at the four reading plans Pastor Richard recommends. He describes each of them. Pick the one right for you and/or your group.