



1. Read Hebrews 4:12. How is the Bible different from any other book you might read? Read 2 Timothy 3:16,17. What does this verse say God's Word is useful for and what does it do?
2. If the Bible is the truth, what does that mean when we believe something that contradicts what the Bible says? What attitude must we develop toward the Bible so that it will change our lives?
3. So you spend time reading the Bible on a daily basis? Have you ever followed a plan for reading the Bible in a systematic way? What are some practical things people in your group have done to read the Bible consistently? (Have them share their insights). Could you start a reading program as a group? The YouVersion app of the Bible can be downloaded to your phone or tablet and it contains reading plans you can use.
4. What do you think is the difference between reading the Bible and studying the Bible? Are you familiar with doing a topical study in the Bible? Have you ever done a topical study? What is the most important topic that every Christian should study and know? Is there a particular topic of the Bible you would like to study? Are there tools you could get to help you study the Bible?
5. Read Psalm 119:11 (NIV translation). What does David say he did in regard to God's Word? What was the benefit in doing so? Why do you think memorizing God's Word has this affect? Do you memorize God's Word on a regular basis? What are some practical things you can do in order to begin memorizing God's Word?
6. Read James 1:22-24. What does this passage tell us to do? What does it say will happen if you do not do this? Is there any benefit to learning God's Word but never doing what it says? Read 1 Corinthians 8:1. What does this verse say will happen to a person who simply gains a lot of knowledge? What do you think it means to be "puffed up"? Do you know any people like this?

## ANSWERS

- 1. The Bible is different from any other writing because it is alive, it has the power to change people because it comes from God. 2 Timothy 3:16,17 tells us that God's Word is God-breathed, which means that God inspired the people to write what they wrote. It is useful to teach us what is God says is the truth, to rebuke us when we are wrong, and to correct our thinking and instruct us in what is right. It is what equips us to do everything God wants us to do.*
- 2. Every Christian at some point will need to decide what they are going to do with the Bible, is it the truth or not? If it is true, then the attitude we must develop is when what we believe disagrees with what the Bible says, then we are wrong in our thinking. If it would be beneficial to your group, Pastor Mark could come and teach a three week study in how we know the Bible is God's Word and is the truth.*
- 3. Let your members share what they have done in the past in reading the Bible, what has worked and what hasn't. Encourage them to get the YouVersion app on their electronic devices and use one of their reading programs. There are many on the internet they could use also, but the important thing is to begin reading. It might be a good idea to do a reading plan as a group in the future.*
- 4. The difference between reading the Bible and studying is one of effort and intent. When you study the Bible, it takes more effort and resources on your part. One of the most basic ways to study is to do a topical study, where you look up every verse that deals with a particular topic to see what the entire Bible teaches about the topic. The most important topical study that every Christian should do is the topic of what God says about salvation. Every Christian should be absolutely sure they are going to heaven and be able to explain from scripture how and why they know for sure. There is a free Bible study software program that anyone can download called "Logos" and can be found at [www.logos.com](http://www.logos.com). In this program is a powerful search program, you simply type in a word and it will bring up every place in scripture that the word is found. It also has many other study tools. If it would be beneficial to your group, Pastor Mark teaches a 2 week class on how to study and understand the Bible, he would be glad to come to your group and teach it.*
- 5. David said that he "hid God's word in his heart" which meant that he had memorized God's word. As a result of this, he was able to keep from sinning against God. Memorizing God's word is the key to beginning to sin less because every temptation is a lie, so you must battle that lie by knowing what God says the truth is about whatever you are being tempted to do. Since God's word is powerful, it has the power to overcome temptation. Practical ways to memorize God's word is to do a topical study on whatever area of temptation you struggle with and then memorize the key verses that tell you the truth about that sin and its consequences are in your life. You can write out a verse on a 3 by 5 card, carry it with you, and pull it out to work on memorizing the verse whenever you have spare time in your day. Start with one verse per week. Ask your members what they have done to memorize God's word in the past.*
- 6. This passage tells us we must apply in our lives what we learn from God's word or we will just forget what it says. There is no benefit to learning God's word if you are not going to do what it says. 1 Corinthians 8:1 tells us that just accumulating knowledge "puffs up" a person which means it makes them proud and arrogant. They think they know everything and believe their knowledge is all they need but they never do anything with what they learn. There are many prideful and arrogant Christians who think they are better than others simply because they have learned a lot about what God says.*