



Power Tool PART FOUR

CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Jesus' resurrection gives me the confidence to trust scripture to guide my beliefs and actions.

- **The Bible is a tool, not a weapon.**
- **The Bible is a tool to lead us to know God, to find life in Jesus, and to follow Jesus by living as a part of His kingdom.**
- **The Bible is a powerful tool and must be handled carefully and wisely.**

When in the hands of the Holy Spirit, the Bible is alive, active, and powerfully brings life.

¹²For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV)

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.

John 6:63 (NIV)

When in the wrong hands, the Bible becomes misinterpreted and is used as a weapon that can destroy someone's faith.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

To grow in our relationship with God we must know the scriptures, work the scriptures, and live by the scriptures.

¹You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. ³Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. ⁵Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. ⁶The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

2 Timothy 2:1-7 (NIV)

The Holy Spirit guides us in truth as we work hard to know scripture so we can love Jesus, become like Jesus, and share Jesus.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

¹¹Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; ¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; ¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

¹⁴Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. ¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. ¹⁶Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

2 Timothy 2:8-18 (NIV)

Know the Upper Story that proclaims the gospel of Jesus.

- **Understand the layout of the Bible: 5-12-5-5-12; 4-1-21-1**
OT - 5 books of law; 12 books of history; 5 books of poetry & wisdom; 5 major prophets; 12 minor prophets



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NT - 4 gospel accounts of Jesus; 1 account of early church history; 21 letters to the early church; 1 book of prophecy

- **Become familiar with the different writing styles found in the scriptures and learn to identify them. (Narrative, poetry, prophecy, letters)**

Work the scriptures to know their meaning to the original audience.

- **Discover the context and content by asking who, what, when, where, and why.**
- **Observe what the original audience learned about God or learned from God.**

Live by the truth of the scriptures. Let them shape my beliefs and transform my actions.

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TEACHING SUMMARY:

“Inside the pages of this book (The Bible) are the answers to all the problems that plague men” ~ Ronald Reagan

Over the last few weeks, we have talked about why the Bible is trustworthy and how it is broken up into 4 key acts.

But how do we engage with the Bible? How do we use it?

For many people, this is something that can be made overly complicated and for others, it can be made overly simplistic.

The truth is engaging with Scripture in a way that will transform our lives will be hard work. Much like mining for gold, as we engage with the Bible and we mine through to find its meaning and application, we will find that the hard work makes the prize at the end all the more meaningful and easier to apply to our lives.

TALK IT OVER:

What is your current relationship with the Bible?

Do you believe the Bible can and will guide you in all life circumstances? Why or why not?

What stood out to you in today’s message in relation to engaging in Scripture and applying it to your life?

What is one next step you can take today?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Mon: Isaiah 40:1-8

Tue: Isaiah 55:8-11

Wed: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Thu: 2 Peter 1:19-21

Fri: John 3:3-8; Titus 3:3-8

Sat: Galatians 5:13-26