



Group Life Leader's Discussion Guide

Date: 3/16/2025

Sermon Title: Wrestling with Doubt Week 2 – The Good Book? Wrestling with the Bible

Scripture: Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Gathering:

As you gather with one another be sure to greet each other and check-in. Ask and inquire from group members how their week has gone? Share that they will close with prayer requests at the end of group today.

OPENING PRAYER (Group leader or someone prays this prayer to open or create a similar prayer.)

Gracious God, we come before You with open hearts and minds, seeking Your wisdom and truth. Thank You for the gift of Your Word, which is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. As we gather to discuss and reflect, may Your Holy Spirit guide our thoughts, strengthen our faith, and deepen our trust in the Scriptures. Help us to grow in understanding and apply Your Word to our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Opening Question:

1. Have you ever had a moment where you doubted or questioned the Bible? How did you handle that experience?

Digging into the scripture text:

2. Psalm 119:105 describes God's Word as a "lamp" and "light." What does this imagery suggest about the Bible's role in our daily lives?
3. Can you think of a time when a Bible passage gave you guidance in a difficult situation? How did it impact you?
4. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 speaks of Scripture as being "inspired by God." What do you think this means?
5. How do we know that the Bible is trustworthy? What evidence (historical, personal, or theological) helps strengthen your trust in it?
6. Some people question whether the Bible is still relevant today. How would you respond to someone who doubts its authority?

Sermon Questions: (Pastor Allison's sermon on week 2)

7. Pastor Allison mentioned three responses to biblical difficulties: forget it, fortify it, or face it. Which response do you tend towards and why?
8. Discuss the Methodist approach of using Scripture, reason, tradition, and experience to interpret the Bible. How might this method help when wrestling with difficult passages?
9. The sermon used the example of women in church leadership. Can you think of other topics where Christians have changed their interpretation of Scripture over time?

10. How can we create a safe space in our church community for people to express doubts or questions about the Bible without fear of judgment?
11. Pastor Allison mentions the Methodist approach of using Scripture, reason, tradition, and experience to interpret the Bible. How might this method help when wrestling with difficult passages? Is this a new concept for you or a reminder of our theological task as methodist?
12. What tools or resources have you found helpful in studying and understanding Scripture?
13. Some people question whether the Bible is still relevant today. How would you respond to someone who doubts its authority? Insights from reading chapter 2 and or this week's sermon?

Insights from *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith* chapter 2:

14. On page 56 Rev. Hamilton writes, "We read the Bible because its sixty-six books tell the story of God's redemptive love, God's power, God's purposes, and God's will for our lives." What do you find helpful or intimidating about this quote?
15. What else resonated with on the bible from chapter 2?
16. Did you find the contrast of the bible being written by fallible humans and inspired by God helpful? How has this idea changed for you over time?

Applying it:

17. 2 Timothy 3:16 highlights different purposes of Scripture—teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness. Which of these do you find most challenging?
18. How can we ensure that we are not just reading the Bible but also applying it in our daily lives?
19. What practical steps can we take to grow in our understanding and trust of Scripture?

CLOSING PRAYER (at the end of discussion have folks share any prayer requests or praises and have someone close in prayer, you can use this prayer if you desire.)

Lord God, we thank You for this time together and for the richness of Your Word. We confess that at times we struggle to understand and trust it fully. Strengthen our faith and give us a hunger to know You more through the Scriptures. Help us not only to hear but to live out Your Word in our thoughts, words, and actions. May Your truth continue to guide and transform us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)

1. Choose a scripture passage this week and explore its historical context.
2. Practice active listening when others express doubts or different interpretations. Seek to understand their perspective before responding.
3. Commit to reading the Bible regularly, even when it's challenging. Set a realistic goal (e.g., 10 minutes daily) and stick to it for a month.