

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Basic // What is the Bible?

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September 11, 2022

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What version of the Bible do you prefer? Why?

Reading: Psalm 1

Outline:

- I. The Bible is a blessing...
 - a. When we meditate on God's word, remember God's saving acts, and avoid wickedness, we become blessed.
 - b. God limits us because He loves us. His limits show us what we've been made for. They show us where flourishing is found.
Q: How can we better reframe God's limitations as a form of love? When do we struggle with this?
- II. ... a foundation...
 - a. If we're not deeply rooted in something, we're liable to be blown around by every new ideology that seems fashionable. If we don't have a foundation, we're going to fall apart every time we're confronted with suffering or crisis.
 - b. Scripture gives you a foundation for when life feels like it is falling apart and the hope of God still holds all things together. It offers deep roots of wisdom so you can discern truth from error.
Q: When do we struggle to turn to God's word in times of struggle? How can we learn to lean into scripture?
- III. ... a promise.
 - a. The Bible tells the story of not of a God who is distant or far off, but of a God who promises to be intimately involved with your life.
 - b. God is so intimately involved with his people, that he became one of us. When we were lost in sin, God drew near. When we go to the Bible, we go to hear that story and promise.
Q: What are some examples of God being intimately involved with your life?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can we compare the Bible to a written dialog with a loving parent? And how can we draw comfort in that connection?
- 2) How can the scripture comfort us in difficult times?

Suggestions for further study:

- John 1:14 **Q: How does Jesus' life on Earth demonstrate the way in which God keeps His promises? How can this help us to trust His word?**
- 2 Timothy 3:17-17 **Q: How can you reflect the scripture, both in your personal and professional lives?**

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, You have caused all of scripture to be written for our learning and for our instruction. We ask that you open us to hear Your word in the way it was meant to be understood. In that word, You show us what we were made for. Strengthen us in our trust and our love of Your word. Give us the faith to follow after it. Amen.