



# Doctrine Discussion Guide

## Week 1 | The Bible

When did you realize that studying the Bible is important?

### Introduction to the Series

- Different type of study than the regular weekly discussion guide
- More systematic (what does the whole Bible say about a topic) and not purely expository (what does one specific text say)
- Helpful to have listened to the teaching
- This discussion guide is not intended to present an exhaustive study of the topic

### Read the CF Statement of Belief

We believe in the Holy Bible as originally written by the Holy Spirit-controlled men. It is inerrant in every respect, infallible, and verbally and plenary inspired. We believe the Bible is complete, final, and authoritative revelation of God's Will and Word, therefore being the absolute authority for Christian union and the supreme standard by which all of human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. By Scriptures we mean the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament always accepted by historical orthodox Christian churches.

### Theological Truths

Here is a summary of the truths covered in the series this week. Look over the list.

- **Verbal:** The very words on the pages of the Bible are inspired by God, not just the thoughts and concepts.
- **Plenary:** All Scripture is equally inspired.
- **Complete and Sufficient:** There are 66 books; 39 of the OT and 27 of the NT
- **Clarity:** The Bible is clear.
- **Perspicuity:** It can be understood.
- **Inspiration:** God-breathed — the very words of God.
- **Authoritative:** Scripture is binding on all mankind.
- **Inerrancy:** The Bible is without error.

### Questions for discussion

- Which of these truths do you find most helpful at this time?
- What are questions that arise from any of these truths?
- What objections to these have you heard in the past?
- How would you respond to them now?

## Passages for Study

### General Revelation (how God reveals himself to all people)

#### *Romans 1:20*

*For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*

- Why are all human beings without excuse before God?
- Consider people who bring up examples of remote people who have never heard the gospel.
  - What is the motivation behind their question?
  - What is true about how God is revealing himself to them?

### Special Revelation (how God reveals himself through his Word)

#### *2 Peter 1:19-21 (See also Hebrews 1:1-2)*

*19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

- What is the source of revelation?
- What does it mean that interpretation doesn't come from people?

## Read the Big Idea:

We can have **a renewed confidence that we have the true word of God and that it is accurate and authoritative.**

- Are you able to walk away from this lesson with renewed confidence in the Word. Why or why not?
- Consider the three levels of belief that Pastor Lee outlined in his introduction:
  - **Convictions** – Any doctrine or truth, which if denied or misunderstood, keeps one out of heaven, seriously distorts the revelation of God to man, or leads to gross sin or error.
  - **Persuasions** – Any doctrine or truth, which you have studied and have gained a level of understanding, that you hold to strongly.
  - **Opinions** – Any issue where Christ followers can disagree and where there is more than one valid viewpoint.
- What kinds of things fall under each of these categories?