

"THE POWER IN THE SCRIPTURES"

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Bishop Edward A. Smith

Life Group Lesson Objective: Understanding and knowing the “power of the scriptures”.

Life Group Leader preparation:

FYI: The teaching theme for 2020 will be “The Word, Faith and Prayer”. For the month of January, the emphasis will be on the “Word of God”.

Hebrew 4:12 Amp – For the Word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thought and intentions of the heart.

John 6:63 says, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; **the words** which I have spoken to you are **spirit and are life**.”

It’s for our benefit

Week #1: The Importance of God’s Word in the Believer’s Life

Group Discussion Question: What value do you place on the God’s word in your life? Is it important for your success in life as a believer?

What is Your definition of success.....?

GOD’S WORD (is to) ACCOMPLISH WHAT HE PLEASES

- Isaiah 55:10-11

God sees His word as food for us

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” – Matt 4:4

We cannot live without his word....it is nourishment and health to our flesh

Our salvation came as a result of hearing the “Word of God”

Rom 10:7 – so then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Rom 10:9 – that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

- Does our confession stop at salvation?

We heard the word, faith came, we believed. We were saved we became “born again”; we became Christians.

We may not have heard those exact scriptures, but it was the Word of God that brought faith into our hearts and we believed, and we were saved!

God said I am the Lord, I change not.....neither does His word

POWER OF HIS WORDS

Prov 4:20-23 – his words are life and health to our flesh! WHEN WE

- give attention to HIS words
- don’t let them depart from our eyes
- keep them in the midst of our hearts

***Let’s be honest – Discussion: How much time are you giving to the Word?
.....reading/meditating in the Word of God?***

I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. – Job 23:12 NASB

Week #2: THE BLESSING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Group Discussion Question: We all have certain delights...what are some of your delights? (food, vacation, shopping, people, accomplishing goals, leisure time)?

Why do you delight in these things? What about them appeals to you...what are their benefits?

- Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly . but his delight is in the law of the Lord.
- Delight - 1) a high degree of gratification or pleasure:

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- Joy – 2) something that gives great pleasure

The scripture says WE are blessed when we delight ourselves in the law of the Lord...or the Word of God. Does being blessed appeal to you?

Proverbs 10:22 – “the blessing of the Lord it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Psalm 1:1-3 – Walking in the counsel of God – A Blessing

He who delights in his word day and night

- Joshua 1:8 – God’s command and blessing to Joshua - ”then you will be prosperous and be successful” .

Power of the scriptures

- There is something we must do
- The blessing is available... the power is in the scripture
 - The believer must be a doer of the word, not just a hearer.... to receive the blessings

READ, STUDY AND LOVE THE WORD OF GOD

See, how I love your precepts.....Psalm 119:159

Psalm 19:7-11 –

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.
The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.
They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.
By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

Week #3: The Power to Transform Your Life

Group Discussion Question: What area(s) needs to be “transformed” in your life?

Obedience, faith, love, honesty, etc?

Mark 525-34 NIV

And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” Immediately her bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

When we read examples like this from the scripture it encourages us and builds our faith.....knowing that God is not a respecter of persons....and that there is power in the scriptures....when we apply the “living” word to our circumstances.

We all have testimony’s of how God has transformed and is transforming our lives....**God gets the glory when we share what He has done** personally to transform our lives. Maybe it was a miracle, or it was you applying the Scriptures to your life.... (it’s all miraculous)
Share with your Life Group, co-workers, friends, family members, even strangers how God has transformed your life through His Word....

Week #4: God’s Word never returns Void

Group Discussion Question: How can your lack of faith make the scripture void?

The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ...

Deut 32:44–47 – Moses came with Joshua son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people. When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

The scriptures are FRUITFUL:

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- Psalm 1:3 – is like a tree planted by the rivers of water.....that brings forth fruit in its season....
- Jer 17:8 – he (the person who meditates on the scriptures day and night) will be like a fruitful tree, because he trusts in the scriptures that he is meditating on.
 - No fear
 - No worries
 - No failures
 - Always fruitful

Continue to stand, believe, confess, meditate on the Word of God until it brings forth fruit.

➤ Be patient

Fear, worry, & failure will try to flood your heart but the Word you have been meditating on will drive it out!

Isaiah 55:10-11 NIV

As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

***Let's be honest – Discussion: How do you handle stressful situations ?
.....Remember “The Power in the Scripture”***

Heb 10:23 - Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Heb 10:35 - Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.