

# discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living  
Leader's Guide

## OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

### LESSON 7: THE WORD OF GOD

#### INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Discipleship Essentials module titled Our Relationship with God. This series of lessons examines the relationship we have with God. It begins by understanding our identity in Christ, which is a result of our becoming a child of God. This series looks at the attributes of God, how we learn about God and know Him better, and how we develop this personal relationship. Understanding ourselves in God's eyes, and having a clearer picture of who God is, will help us live the life that God designed for us.

#### INTENDED AUDIENCE

The intended audience for these lessons is new Christians, those who would like a refresher on the basics of Christianity, as well as those preparing to teach these Christian practices and beliefs. Also, those with an interest in Christian thought will find value in these lessons as they pertain to daily living and choices.

The Leader's Guide is intended to help you as a leader in your preparation. These lesson outlines may be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials found online at [www.discipleshipessentials.org](http://www.discipleshipessentials.org).

---

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

All other content is © 2019 Trans World Radio Canada, and may be used in any way you like as long as you use it with the purpose of reaching the world for Christ and do not charge for the use of the material. See more license details at [www.discipleshipessentials.org/licensing](http://www.discipleshipessentials.org/licensing).



# OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

## LESSON 7: THE WORD OF GOD

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to examine the authority and life-changing power of the Word of God.

### LEADER'S NOTE

This lesson focuses on the Word of God, and demonstrates that it is given by God and not created by man, and is inspired, true, and trustworthy. Participants may have varying experiences in studying the Bible. This is a good reminder, even for those who have studied God's Word their whole lives, of how precious the Word of God is and that it ought not be taken for granted. Encourage participants to increase their Bible reading, but also application. They could journal, blog, or keep some other record of what they read and how they intend to apply that information. This will help them to grow in their faith and not forget the truths God reveals to them.

## INTRODUCTION

*Select two or three of the following questions to ask the group.*

- ❖ What is your favourite story in the Bible, and why? Do you have a Bible verse that is especially meaningful to you?
- ❖ Why do you think mature Christians recommend reading the Word of God daily? Why is it important to spend time reading the Bible?
- ❖ What makes the Bible different from any other book of stories, moral tales, or life advice?
- ❖ In today's society, many people rely on science to explain everything. Can you think of problems that science cannot solve, but on which the Word of God can shed light?



## STUDY

*Instruct the group on the following points.*

### TEACH

- ❖ **The Purposes of God's Word:** The Bible is a tremendous resource to guide us in our Christian lives. It isn't just a true account of God's interactions with mankind but every word of it is meant for our benefit. We must pay attention to what we can learn, and how we should change our lives in light of it. Every word of the Bible is useful for at least one of these categories:

1. Teaching: [Colossians 1:9-12](#)
2. Reproof: [Hebrews 4:12](#)
3. Correction: [2 Timothy 3:16](#)
4. Training in righteousness: [Hebrews 5:12-14](#)

### ASK PARTICIPANTS:

Read through the following verses and list some other purposes and benefits of God's Word.

- o [Romans 1:16](#)
- o [Romans 10:17](#)
- o [1 Peter 1:23](#)
- o [John 5:39](#)
- o [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)
- o [Acts 20:32](#)
- o [Psalm 119](#)

### TEACH:

- ❖ **The Nature of God's Word:** Among all the books written in this world, the Bible is wholly unique. But what is its nature? What does God say about this book?
  - **The Bible has an Author:** We learn that the Bible has one ultimate author, God Himself. The word "inspired" comes from the Greek word *theopneustos*. Theos means "God." Pneo means "to breathe."
    - o "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" ([2 Timothy 3:16](#)).
    - o This is translated "breathed out by God" in [2 Timothy 3:16](#) and in some translations, "God breathed". The meaning here is that the words themselves are filled with God just as our lungs fill with air, or sails are filled and moved by the wind.
    - o The Bible had many human authors, but each of them wrote filled by the Holy Spirit so that the unique perspective and background of the writer came through, as well as the truth of God.



- **The Bible has Authority:** Not only was it written by God, but it is the authoritative final word on matters of life and faith – the New Testament now clarifies the Old and is the truth and rule by which we must live our lives.
  - The Old Testament authors give credit to God for their words. The phrase "This is what the Lord says..." appears over 3,800 times.
  - Bible authors refer to other parts of the Bible as 'scripture' and treat it as authoritative messages from God. (Daniel 9:2). Scripture means that it is holy writing, and to be heeded.
  - Samuel credits God for his writing in 2 Samuel 23:2. "The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue." In Deuteronomy 4:2, Moses points out that what he commands the people, comes from the Lord.
  - The New Testament claims to be in equal authority to the Old Testament. Consider what Peter writes about the source of the words he writes (2 Peter 1:16-21). He also indicated that they were not just from God, but had the same authority over the lives of believers as the Old Testament law (2 Peter 3:16).
  
- **The Bible has Authenticity:** The Bible itself is unique in countless ways – it has been preserved longer than any other book, it perfectly reflects the character of its ultimate author, and its truth is applicable in every age. Consider what the Bible says about itself:
  - Scripture is perfect (Psalm 19:7).
  - Scripture is Eternal (Psalm 119:160, Matthew 24:35).
  - Scripture is alive and active, reaching our heart and spirit (Hebrews 4:12).
  - Scripture alone is true (John 17:17, Psalm 119:160).
  - Scripture will never fail in its purpose (Isaiah 55:11).
  - This book makes claims on itself that have been proven in the changed lives of people who follow it. Those who study and obey it have not found it lacking in anything, but it clearly lays out its purpose.
  
- ❖ **What Did Jesus Say About the Scriptures:** Some people may think they want to follow Jesus, but not the Bible. Some view the Bible as a set of rules and an ancient text from another time. Jesus – who spoke so much about love and forgiveness – might sound like someone easier to follow. And yet, Jesus spoke so much about the importance of these words of God!
  - Jesus quoted from the Old Testament (the only Scripture available at the time) frequently, especially when talking to religious leaders to correct their understanding of the words.
  - Jesus demonstrated that the Scripture are useful for everyday living, and defeating evil in the world. When Satan tempted Jesus in the desert, Jesus used Scripture as his only weapon (Matthew 4:4,7-10)



- Jesus reminded His followers that the scriptures prophesied that He would come, and that scripture was God's word to them. (John 5:39-40, Matthew 22:29-33).
- ❖ **Our Response to God's Word:** So now we know that God has given us a book, and most of us have access to it in some form, but what does God ask that we do with these words?
  - **Value God's Word:** Our response to God's Word ought to be to value, and give it a prominent place in our life. It is a precious gift! It is the very words of God given to us!
  - **Treasure God's Word:** Look at the following verses from the Bible of how people treasured and obeyed God's word. We should have such a posture towards it too.
    - Moses (Deuteronomy 32:44-47)
    - David (Psalm 19:9-11)
    - The psalmist (Psalm 1:1-3)
  - **Obey God's Word:** We are to implement God's Word in our lives. We should look for commands to obey in every passage, and examine ourselves against the Scriptures.
    - Luke 6:46-49
    - John 14:21
  - **Apply God's Word:** We can do this by looking at each passage of the Bible and asking ourselves what it is teaching us, and how it is reproofing us, correcting us, and training us. Look for lessons to learn, sins we need to repent of, and things that need to change.

## DISCUSSION

- ❖ In what ways can you apply what you read in the Word of God?
- ❖ How can you make a plan to read the Bible more effectively? What are your goals for Bible reading? (For instance, reading through the Bible in one year, using various Bible reading plans, keeping a record of what you read in a journal, etc.)
- ❖ How could you explain to someone who had doubts about the reliability of the Bible that it is the true Word of God?
- ❖ What have you learned from your Bible reading recently that you would like to share with others?

## PRAYER

*Thank God for His gift of the Word. Pray that participants would treasure the Scriptures and find a fresh passion for studying and applying their truths. Thank God for the time spent together studying His Word, and pray that much fruit will come from meeting in this way.*



# HOMEWORK

Assign the following chart for homework, or as an extra assignment. This chart demonstrates one way we can examine and apply the Scriptures.

## STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Look up the passages below and fill out the chart. Not all passages will necessarily include all four elements. The same approach can be taken with all passages of the Bible.

	<b>TEACH</b>	<b>REPROVE</b>	<b>CORRECT</b>	<b>TRAIN</b>
	Something God wants me to know, including commands, promises or characteristics of God.	Some area I must repair in my life, or sin I must be convicted of.	The change I need to make or truth I need to believe in my life	The area I must continuously work on in order to become more like Christ.
<b>Romans 5:3-5</b>	<i>I should rejoice in tribulation.</i>	<i>I grumble when I face hardships</i>	<i>I need to choose to persevere and be joyful</i>	<i>I will put my hope in God not my worldly circumstances</i>
<b>Matthew 6:31-34</b>				
<b>Philippians 4:6-7</b>				