



THE BIG IDEA

Scripture is here to guide us, teach us, correct us, and keep us on the right path for our lives.

WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW IT?

A healthy spiritual life is one that engages with God by interacting with scripture.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Set aside time each day to seek God's word for your life through reading the Bible. Even if it's just a few minutes, make scripture reading a rhythm for your life.

START HERE

This series is all about the spiritual rhythms that Christians need to practice to connect with God, and grow in faith.

We will be covering a number of topics, and we want our entire church to be a part of the conversation. If you missed the message on Sunday, you can catch up [here](#).

CONVERSATION GUIDE

This week's message was geared toward helping us understand what scripture is, and what it is for. Here are some key concepts to explore with the group.

FANCY WORD OF THE DAY: "HERMENEUTICS"

Hermeneutics is the theory and methodology of text interpretation. In other words, it's the framework for you to interpret a text. In our case, it's the way we interpret the Bible. **Your hermeneutic is comprised of the ideas that you have about the nature of scripture, what you believe the purpose of scripture is, and your understanding of the world through which scripture comes to us.** Hermeneutics shapes more than our theology, it shapes our identity, our worldview, and our understanding of our role in the Kingdom of God.

So then, what is a healthy hermeneutic? The best, and most useful way to approach scripture is to treat it as what it actually is. In order to do that, you have to **get to know it**. Treat it like a new friend you are trying to build a relationship with. Ask good questions and let it answer for itself. "How old are you? Where are you from? Tell me about your family? How did you get here?" That takes some work, but luckily,

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The Liturgists Podcast: *Episode 3: The Bible*- [LISTEN](#)
- Study Tools for the questions- [READ](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 24th

- Serve with the Bowery
- Chili Cook-off in Central Park

NOVEMBER 5th

- FCQ Session 3: LGBTQ and The Church: Building Bridges Across the Divide with Justin Lee at Roulette in Brooklyn

this is not a timed test. And that is a good thing, because people spend their entire lives devoted to biblical studies and still have unanswered questions.

GROUP EXERCISE

So let's do this! Let's push our glasses up on our nose and nerd out! As a group, read the scripture below together. (It's an easy one)

JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Ask these questions:

1. Who wrote this verse?
2. Who is Jesus talking to in the verse?
3. Who is the author's intended audience?
4. What is the author's agenda?
5. What is the intended audience experiencing at that time in history?

The purpose of this exercise is to start building good habits and asking good questions. The conversation will naturally lead into deeper and more meaningful discussion about the scriptures. Follow the link in the sidebar for all the answers to the questions above.

BENEDICTION

In closing, pray this prayer together, from Seeking God's Face,

"GREAT AND MIGHTY GOD, BECAUSE OF JESUS I CAN SEEK YOUR FACE; BECAUSE OF JESUS I MAY ENTER YOUR PRESENCE; BECAUSE OF JESUS I'M MADE, WITH ALL YOUR PEOPLE, INTO A HOUSE OF PRAYER; BECAUSE OF JESUS YOUR EARS ARE OPEN TO LISTENING TO MY PRAYERS. AND SO I PRAY IN JESUS NAME, AMEN."