

SMALL GROUP GUIDES - 2026

MARCH 22ND

CONTENTS

This document has two guides:

1. The first guide is a Bible study that complements the sermon.
2. The second guide is a series of discussion questions that expand on the sermon.

Remember, **you don't have to say every bullet point out loud.** You do not have to ask every question on the discussion guide. These guides are “fatty” on purpose. Cut what is unnecessary or unhelpful. Offer meat to your small group. Do what works best in the time you have available.

Sincerely,
Mitch

SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLE STUDY

Phil talked about Scripture. This study will be about 2 Timothy 3, in which Paul writes about Scripture. Read it out loud for the group to hear. You don't have to ask every question. Pick the ones that work and skip the questions that don't work!

1. Paul begins the chapter by warning about the “terrible times” of the last days. What are some indicators of the difficulties in the last days?
2. Paul says, “have nothing to do with such people.” How is this counter-cultural? How can we harmonize this command and Christ’s command to love enemies?
3. Paul seems to be worried about false teachers who “worm their way into homes.” How can false teaching worm its way into our families today?
4. Paul thinks being “loaded down” with sins can make us gullible and swayed by all kinds of evil desires. How can our vices make us easy prey for false teaching?
5. Verse 7 warns us about “always learning but never being able to come to a knowledge of the truth.” Where do you see this happening today?
6. Paul refers to the Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses during the Exodus. Why is it important to identify teachers who oppose the truth?
7. Do you think folly is “clear to everyone” today?
8. Paul contrasts these false teachers with his own teaching. Why do you think he is so confident that the two teachings are opposed?
9. Paul promises that everyone who wants to live a godly life will be persecuted. If we’re not being persecuted, what does that tell us?
10. Paul encourages the church to “continue” in what they have learned because they know the teachers from whom they learned it. Should we continue in the teachings if we grew up in church? Or should we test them?
11. Paul says, “you have known the Holy Scriptures” which are “able to make us wise for salvation.” In what way does the Bible “save” us?
12. Paul says, “all Scripture” is God-breathed or “inspired.” Why is it important to know that the entire Bible comes from God?
13. What do we mean when we say that the Bible is “inspired”? What is the difference between the Bible and a classic that we had to read in school?
14. Paul says it is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, or training in righteousness. Which of those purposes of the Bible is most neglected today?
15. The Bible exists so that God’s servant can be “thoroughly equipped for every good work.” Do you think Christians living before the Bible was finished could do the good work Christ called them to do? If so, why? If not, why not?

PRAY FOR GOD TO GROW YOUR LOVE FOR SCRIPTURE

SERMON-BASED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Phil talked about difficult passages in the Bible. **Don't try to ask every question on this list.** Focus on what questions are most fitting for your group.

1. If a friend asked you to identify a passage in Scripture that *you* find difficult to interpret, how would you answer?
2. Phil focused on some passages with intense violence, in which God commands the Israelites to kill everyone in a city, including women and children. What is surprising to you about reading those stories?
3. Had you heard Phil's interpretation of those violent passages before? What was your first reaction to his interpretations?
4. Do you think Jesus rejected the violence of the Old Testament? If so, why? If not, why not?
5. Phil also talked about how the Bible was made. Were you taught in your church about how the Bible formed? What impression did you get about its writing?
6. The books in the Bible were written over the course of centuries. Is that slow writing process concerning to you, or encouraging? Why?
7. Some books in the Bible are narrative; some have laws; some are psalms. Why do you think God inspired so many kinds of books?
8. Christian evangelists were successful in spreading the gospel before the Bible was complete. Why was that possible?
9. Phil said the New Testament was written *because* Jesus rose from the dead, not the other way around. Why is it important to emphasize the priority of His resurrection?
10. Phil showed the number of manuscripts that we have of the New Testament compared to manuscripts regarding other ancient events. Why is it impressive that writings about Jesus have more written evidence?
11. A critic of Christianity named Voltaire wrote, "One hundred years from my dad, there will not be a Bible on earth." What happened to the Bible in the past few hundred years after Voltaire?
12. Phil mentioned a recent increase in Bible sales. Why do you think Americans have a renewed interest or openness to Scripture?
13. Phil mentioned a Canadian professor named Jordan Peterson who sells out stadiums to listen to lectures on the Bible. Why is there an interest in *intellectual* deep dives into Scripture?

PRAY FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GIVE US A DEEPER LOVE FOR THE BIBLE