

## The Word of God

*The Bible was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by over 40 different authors from all walks of life, including shepherds, farmers, tent-makers, fishermen, priests, philosophers and kings. Despite these differences in occupation and the span of years over which it was written (some 1500 years from about 1450 BC to about 100 AD), the Bible is an extremely cohesive book. The Bible uses various analogies to describe how the Word of God is meant to function in our lives e.g. it is referred to as life giving water, a lamp to our feet, a mirror to reveal what we are really like, and a sharp sword to expose and help us to remove sin. The Bible reveals God's character and will, and is essential for our salvation and living as followers of Jesus.*

### 1 Timothy 4:16

- Why is it important to watch our lives and our doctrine closely?
- What do these two terms mean?
- Where do we get guidance on living God-pleasing lives and ensuring our doctrine is correct?

### John 12:48-50

- What will be the role of God's Word on Judgement day?
- What can those who obey God's Word look forward to?

### 2 Timothy 3:14-17

- What is the link between the Word and salvation?
- What does it mean that all Scripture is "God-breathed"?
- What practical uses of the scriptures are mentioned here?
- Do you get these benefits from how you currently read the Bible? Why do you think that is?

### Hebrews 4:12-13

- How should the Word of God act like a sharp sword in our lives?

### Mark 4:1-8; 13-20

- What does the seed in this parable represent?
- What are the four different responses to the Word that Jesus mentions?
- Which response sounds the closest to the way you have received God's Word in your life?
- What happens when the word is received by fertile soil, representing a humble heart?

### Matthew 7:24-27

- What is the difference between the two houses?
- Which house best describes what your life has been like?
- What response to the Word of God is required to be able withstand the storms of life?

### John 8:31-32

- Who are truly disciples of Jesus? What happens to those who hold to Jesus' words?
- Have you held on to God's Word consistently in your life?

### Acts 17:11

- Why were the Berean Christians praised for being more noble?
- How did they receive the Word? What did they do after receiving it?
- Why is it important to constantly compare what human beings say with what the scriptures say?

#### FURTHER STUDY

**James 1:22-25.** How is the Bible like a mirror? What response to the Word of God results in blessing?

**Romans 10:17.** How do you think reading the Bible builds our faith?

**Mark 7:5-13.** What are some religious traditions that can get in the way of truly obeying the Word of God?

**Psalms 119:97-106.** How would you summarise the Psalmists view of the Scriptures? What benefits are associated with studying and obeying God's Word according to this passage?