

Small Group Discussion Guide
Week of 2/28/16

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17 together.

1. In the scripture we just read together, what does Paul repeatedly appeal to in order to strengthen Timothy? (See 2 Timothy 3:10, 14-16) What is the primary function of scripture according to 2 Timothy 3:15? Is it possible to understand how to receive the Lord's salvation through Christ apart from the scriptures? (See Psalm 119:105, Romans 15:4, John 5:39, 2 Peter 1:3-4)
2. Why do people say that "you can make the Bible say anything you want it to"? Do you think that you can? What does the Bible say about this? (See Ephesians 1:18-19, 1 John 5:13, 2 Peter 1:20-21) What does Peter mean by "someone's own" or "private" interpretation?
3. What is the difference between what Pastor Marc called "essential" and "non-essential" doctrine? What doctrines would you categorize as essential? Non-essential? Are non-essential doctrines unimportant? Why or why not?
4. Paul tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:16 that all scripture is "breathed out by God" or "inspired" by God. By comparing this verse to Genesis 2:7? (See Hebrews 4:12, John 6:63) Why is this important as it relates to other religious texts, humanistic philosophies, or cultural idols? What should this truth lead us to believe in relation to the scriptures' infallibility and authority?
5. Pastor Marc stated that the fundamental truth of proper Biblical interpretations that the Bible is all about God. Is this how most people approach scripture? If not, what do you think the primary concerns of many of them are? What questions are they hoping to get answers for from scripture? Why do you think that it is dangerous to approach scripture with ourselves (our destiny, blessing, etc) as the centerpiece of scripture?

Pray together...

That our eyes would be opened to the truth of God's message; that we would not be hindered by self-interest or bad interpretational habits.

Pray together...

That God would stir our love for his Word and that he would help us to joyfully renew our commitment to seek Him in scripture daily.

Pray together...

For the needs of the group