

growing with...the bible

(week 4)

AIM – To understand that the Bible is God’s primary method of communicating with his people; to understand that reading the Bible is essential to growing in faith.

intro...

- 1) How would you respond to receiving the following two emails? One is from a close friend who has been overseas, who emails you to say they are coming back home. The other is from a company you have never heard of, offering you millions of dollars if you simply send them your bank details...

This question is to introduce the point that you would pay far more attention to the email from someone you know. It is more important, and so you would read it more carefully. This will lead into the idea that we must remember that the Bible is from God, and so we should pay careful attention to it.

Last week we saw that prayer is really important in order for a Christian to grow in their faith. We saw that prayer is simply talking to God. This week we will be looking at the importance of the Bible, which is simply God talking to us.

explore...

Read Psalm 1

- 2) What do you think verse 2 is referring to by ‘the law of the LORD’?

In this context it is specifically referring to the Old Testament scriptures (as that was all they had at this point in time!). However, the principle applies to the whole of the Bible that we have today (both Old and New Testaments).

- 3) What are verses 1-3 saying about people who are devoted to the ‘law of the LORD’?

They delight in it and meditate upon it – therefore as Christians we are to take our lead not from the people around us, but from what the Bible has to say. They are also like a tree that is firmly established, and flourishing – therefore if we want to be strong and keep going in our faith we need the Bible (just as a tree needs water).

- 4) In contrast – what are verses 4-6 saying about those who are **not** devoted to the ‘law of the LORD’?

They are like chaff (the useless bits which are leftover when harvesting grain), and unlike the tree by the river, they are easily blown around by the wind. They will have no future, and will ultimately perish.

Read Psalm 119

- 5) This Psalm is all about taking delight in, and living according to the ‘law of the LORD’. After reading each section of the psalm (as broken down on the next page) try to summarise what it is saying about the importance of the Bible.

Note that reading this Psalm will take some time (but it is well worth the effort). Use each section for a (very) brief discussion on what we can learn from that part about the importance of the Bible. Naturally, some sections will promote more discussion than others.

verses...	summary...
1-16	
17-32	
33-48	
49-72	
73-88	
89-104	
105-120	
121-136	
137-160	
161-176	

reflect...

6) In light of the Psalms we have read, in what ways should the Bible play a key role in the life of a Christian? Does it play that role in your life?

This is a chance to summarise what they have learnt from the study. The Bible is essential to the life of a Christian. It is how we know and understand God better; it is how we learn about how to live the Christian life; it provides guidance in our struggles etc...

7) Read James 1:22-25. When you read the Bible, do you then go and apply to your life what you have learnt?

A question to consider whether we are simply reading our Bibles for the sake of doing it, or if we are actually learning from and applying what we read to our lives.

8) What are the things that prevent the Bible from playing a key role in your life, or that prevent you from applying what you have learnt? How can we help each other with this?

Some practical reflection and application. Get them to give specific answers that they can actually put into practice!