

INTRO

Share something mysterious that fascinates you (like Stonehenge). What makes it intriguing, and what questions do you have about it?

OR

As we jump into this new series about the Bible, share your earliest memory of encountering the Bible with your group.

IDEA 1

Brian shared the truth that "Scripture is God-breathed and breathes God."

Have a few people share a time when you experienced Scripture as more than just words on a page - when it felt alive or spoke directly to your situation. What was that experience like?

God used various people (shepherds, kings, doctors, tentmakers) to write Scripture while maintaining its divine inspiration. How does knowing about the human element of Scripture's authorship impact your view of the Bible? Does it strengthen or challenge your faith?

Timothy learned Scripture from his mother and grandmother as a child. Who were the key people who helped introduce you to the Bible? What impact did they have on how you view Scripture today?

IDEA 2

Brian emphasized that Scripture is not just advice we can take or leave. How do you distinguish between treating the Bible as helpful suggestions versus treating it as authoritative truth? What makes this challenging in today's culture?

The Bible is "Jewish meditation literature" meant to be pondered over years rather than quickly consumed. How might this change your approach to reading Scripture? What are the challenges of adopting this slower, more reflective approach? As you consider reading it in this way, what are you excited about?

IDEA 2 CONT.

Brian quoted Eugene Peterson saying Christians should "assimilate" Scripture in a way that "gets metabolized into acts of love." **Share an example of how a particular Scripture passage has transformed your actions or relationships.**

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Together, practice Lectio Divina (reflective Scripture reading) using 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

- Have someone read the passage aloud slowly while others listen with eyes closed
- Spend 1 minute in silence reflecting on the words
- Have a different person read it again
- Each person share one word or phrase that stood out to them
- Have a third person read it one final time
- Share briefly: What might God be saying to you personally through this passage?

If you have a large group, consider breaking into smaller groups for this practice.

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

Pick one way you'll engage with Scripture differently this week based on what you learned. This could be:

- Reading from a different translation than you usually use
- Setting aside specific time to read and reflect
- Joining a Life Group that uses the Bible study guide
- Finding a resource to learn more about how we got the Bible
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Throughout the week, notice how interacting with Scripture transforms how you are interacting with the world around you.