



Belief: What we believe **20-Mar: The Bible**

Series Summary: Many view doctrine as something that is only important for pastors. Nothing could be further from the truth. What we believe matters. This is why Paul told young Timothy to watch his doctrine closely (1 Tim 4:16)

Big Idea/Question: What do you believe about the Bible? Even more, so do your actions reflect that?

GET THEM TALKING

What did Pastor Russell say that stuck out to you?

Why does what we believe about the Bible matter?

GROUP DISCUSSION (Application)

How do you know that the Bible truly matters to someone? Or to put it another way: if we truly believe that the Bible is God's perfect message to us we will _____?

Leader Note: Because scripture is inspired, inherent and infallible:

- we don't cherry-pick (I like this but not that)
- We will ask what does Scripture say, not what do I want it to say
- We won't try to make the Bible fit our agenda (or any agenda for that matter)
- We won't twist or take Scripture out of context

James 1:22-25 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. **23** Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror **24** and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. **25** But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

What is James telling us about how we should view or approach Scripture?

What part of Scripture or the commands of God does our culture ignore?

What part of Scripture are you ignoring in your own life?

Vs 23-24-

- Why do you think James made such a big deal about listening to the Word but not obeying it?
- How is listening to (reading) Scripture like forgetting what you look like? What is James getting at?

Leader Note: Some people take a casual look at God's Word without letting it affect their lives, like the person who looks so quickly into a mirror that flaws go undetected and nothing is changed. They listen but don't act. The other approach is the intent look, the deep and continued study of God's Word that allows a person to see flaws and change his or her life in line with God's standards.

The kind of "mirror" that God's Word provides is unique. It shows us our inner nature in the same way that a regular mirror shows our exterior features. Both mirrors reflect what is there. When God's Word points out something in us that needs correction, we had better listen and act.¹

Vs 25- How could Scripture be a blessing to us when we obey it?

Leader Note: For more on how obeying Scripture can bless us see Joshua 1:8

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

What does it mean that the Bible is a lamp to your feet and a light on your path?

What do you need to start doing to allow the Bible to impact and guide your life?

¹ Barton, B., Comfort, P., Osborne, G., Taylor, L. K., & Veerman, D. (2001). Life Application New Testament Commentary (p. 1075). Tyndale.

For Further Study: Here are some other Bible passages about the Bible itself if you or your students want to continue to dive deeper.

- Matthew 24:35
- Romans 15:4
- Hebrews 4:12
- Isaiah 40:8