



WEEK THREE: WE TAKE THE BIBLE SERIOUSLY – Study Guide

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God speaks. He gave us a book that tells us Who He is, what He cares about, and what He has accomplished. Obedience to scripture is a *response* to God's actions, not an effort to get him to act on our behalf. The primary message of the Bible is what God, in Christ, has done. That's why we take it seriously.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) How valuable is the Bible to you personally? (Answer honestly; Life Group is a safe place for that.) Is it a book that takes up space on a shelf somewhere? Do you read it occasionally when you need some direction? Do you read it every day because you know you "should?" Or do you cling to it tightly as a source of life?

Into the Bible

- 2) Taking the Bible seriously goes hand-in-hand with putting your faith in Jesus. Read **1 John 2:1-6** to see some specific ways the Bible affects us. In what ways does reading and believing it affect you? In what ways does obeying it reveal what God has already done in your life?

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WEEK THREE: WE TAKE THE BIBLE SERIOUSLY – STUDY GUIDE

- 3) You never outgrow your need for scripture. We're able to learn things that we wouldn't have earlier, or see God more clearly as we grow and get more familiar with the Bible. Read **1 John 2:12-14** to see how scripture helps us grow in different stages of our journey. How does our need for the Bible change as we grow?

How Does This Apply?

- 4) If you take the Bible seriously in your life there will be observable evidence. We all have areas of strength and areas of weakness in that regard. What are some areas in your life that there's little evidence that you believe the Bible? What are some specific areas and steps you can take to grow there?

Current Prayer Focus

What we're praying for together as a church:

- Neighborhood Campuses
- Building for the Statesville Campus
- 100 New Leaders at The Cove

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Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 5) We don't want you to take the Bible seriously simply because we say that you should. We want you to take the Bible seriously because it's true and inspired by God. Obviously, this one question can't cover all of the reasons that the Bible is trustworthy, but it's a great place to start. For more great resources, visit <http://www.josh.org/resources/study-research/answers-to-skeptics-questions/>.

One of the greatest testaments to the reliability of the Bible is the poor portrayal of Jesus followers. The Bible clearly shows them saying and doing things that they must have regretted later in life. These same men either helped write the Bible or were at least alive for much of the time it was written.

Read some of the examples below of Jesus followers, specifically the Apostles, making huge blunders. How is this a testament to the reliability of the Bible? How can it be encouraging to you as a Jesus follower?

Matthew 17:14-20

Mark 6:52

Luke 24:40-41

Matthew 16:22-23

Luke 9:46-48

Mark 16:13-14

Acts 15:37-38