



Week 1 – The Gift of the Bible

Announcements

Lead a Transformed Group – the next big thing at Church of the King! Beginning January 3-4, we will be kicking off our next Spiritual Emphasis Series called *Transformed*. Consider stepping out to lead a small group during this 7-week series. Training classes for anyone interested in leading will be offered at Little Creek Campus on January 4 at 9AM in Annex Studio B.

201 Dream Team Orientation – Sunday, December 14 at 5:00PM at all campuses. 201 Dream Team Orientation is the second step in Pathway and your place to learn more about how you are wired and where you can serve at Church of the King.

Warm-up

Do you have a favorite book? What specifically makes you enjoy it so much?

Word and Application

The Bible is the most influential book ever written. It has stood the test of time and after thousands of years in existence has been published in nearly every language and has been read by billions of people.

Despite the Bible's longevity and incredible influence, many people still try to attack its legitimacy. Recent years have seen a significant level of criticism directed at the Bible. However, no matter what may be leveled against it, God's Word always stands the test of time.

Read Matthew 24:35 and Isaiah 40:8. Both of these verses are promises from God – He is guaranteeing to us that His Word will never cease to be valid and true for us.

If God says that His Word is true, why do you think some continue to attack it? What might be some reasons that well-intentioned people might question Scripture?

Let's look at three legitimate questions that people ask about the Bible:

1. Is the Bible reliable?

The Bible can and should be tested for reliability just as you would test any other piece of writing. Scholars typically evaluate documents for reliability in four major areas: dates, geography, people, and storyline. Fortunately, the Bible passes all of these reliability tests with flying colors. The historical record to attest to the Bible's legitimacy and accuracy is greater than any other piece of writing out there.

How does information about the Bible's reliability impact your faith?

2. Is the Bible Relevant?

Some would question whether the Bible still has any relevance in today's world. What may have been useful in ancient times is from their perspective no longer needed. The truth is that the Bible was written by 40 different people over 1,600 years in three different languages. Despite this, it is a coherent, unified book that tells the story of God's loving redemption of mankind. This is in itself an incredible miracle!

That being said, Scripture is not always easy to understand, and to the untrained eye, can even seem to contradict itself. However, the truth can be found by looking at the big picture of the whole Bible to better understand the context of a particular passage. Learning to do this takes time, but you can always reach out to one of our pastors if you want clarity on anything in the Bible that you find to be less than clear.

How have you seen the relevancy of the Bible in your life?

3. Is the Bible real?

Another common attack against the Scriptures is that it does not produce results in our lives. However, those who have made an effort to apply the Word to their lives have seen it bring about amazing and incredible results time and time again.

How has the Word of God impacted your life? What are some steps you can take to make the Bible an even greater priority in the coming year?

Prayer

Close with a time of prayer that focuses on giving thanks to God for the miracle of His Word.