

Life in all its fullness



This week we are exploring our call to encounter God through the Word of God. In Jesus' day the Scriptures included the various books of the Old Testament. For us today, God's Word is both the Old and New Testament; a treasure house of different styles of writing and an inexhaustible source of spiritual wisdom, challenges, questions and promise. Ultimately all Scriptures point to God's living Word, his Son Jesus.

### Read 2 Tim. 3. 10-17

"All Scripture is breathed out by God." The "All Scripture" in this case most specifically referred to the Old Testament, since it is unclear how much of the New Testament was written and in circulation. But it is more than just the Old Testament for it also includes the message that Jesus himself announced - That God's kingdom, or ruling was coming to birth in and through his work.

For us today, Scriptures include all the books of the New Testament and it is profitable in 4 ways: teaching, rebuking correcting and training.

- Discuss those different aspects and tell why each is important?
- What have you found in the Bible which is helping you *live* as God intends?

### Read Hebrew 4. 12-16

The main thrust of this passage is that God's word is effective, no one can escape it. It will always accomplish its purposes. It is true that a lot of people do escape it for the moment at least: Some choose to firmly ignore anything they hear about the Bible and Jesus, others may decide to pay little attention, making sure they don't open a Bible too often. However, what the passage says is that you can't escape it IN THE END – God will find us out, will pierce through and disclose what is really going on, the secret thoughts, plans and intentions that makes the real centre of our life. This is a serious warning, but also an incredible encouragement: As this is going to happen sooner or later, we much better get on with it – that would be the smartest and wisest thing to do!

- Think of a time when God spoke to you through Scripture. How did that happen?
- How did the Holy Spirit speak to your head and to your heart? What changed for you as a result?

On Sunday the speaker said we can choose to use the Bible as a Debit Account (you just go to it when you need to draw something out) or a Savings Account (you regularly invest time, developing a Bible reading habit, you let it grow). Think about this image.

- What kind of accounts do we have? (*Time for honesty!*)
- How do we (or can we) invest in God's Word as a wonderful Savings Account resource?

*Some suggestions*

- Learn one key verse a week and let this transform you.
- Find a daily devotion app / booklet and share this round the home group.
- Set a Bible reading challenge.

Websites

Bible gateway	<a href="https://www.biblegateway.com">https://www.biblegateway.com</a>
Our Daily Bread	<a href="https://odb.org">https://odb.org</a>
The Bible Challenge	<a href="https://thebiblechallenge.org">https://thebiblechallenge.org</a>
The bible Project	<a href="https://thebibleproject.com">https://thebibleproject.com</a>

**And finally** “Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years.” -Charles Spurgeon