



Journal

Chapter 4: THE BIBLE

Personal Study

Last week you examined your beliefs about salvation. Did you learn anything new about yourself? About God? Perhaps you've been a Christian for a long time and you're discovering new things about what you believe. Maybe you're new to the faith or simply exploring what it means to be a Christian. If so, feel free to ask questions and connect with your group leader or pastor for help. This week before your group meeting, read *Believe, Chapter 4: The Bible*. Then spend some time praying, asking God to help you recognize the tremendous value of his Word.

Read

Read *Believe, Chapter 4: The Bible* and answer the following questions.

1. Describe the common patterns found in these scriptures.

2. As you read this chapter, what opinions, ideas, or worries came to mind?

3. What did you read that was new to you? _____

Inspired you? _____

Intrigued you? _____

Left you feeling confused? _____

4. Challenge yourself to list as many motivations for reading the Bible as you can.

Which incentives are most compelling to you? _____

5. Give examples of ways knowing the Word of God can inform our daily decisions.

6. How has the Bible clarified misconceptions that you had about God, yourself, and the world we live in?

Evaluate

Based on your reading from Believe, Chapter 4: The Bible, evaluate your level of confidence in the statements below, using a 1–6 scale (1 = no confidence, 6 = complete certainty).

_____ I believe the Bible is absolutely true in matters of faith and morals.

_____ I believe the words of the Bible are words from God.

_____ I believe the Bible has decisive authority over what I say and do.

_____ I believe the Bible is relevant to address the needs of contemporary culture.

Take Action

Memorizing Scripture is a valuable discipline for all believers to exercise. Spend a few minutes each day committing this week's Key Verse to memory.

Key Verse: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

Recite this week's Key Idea out loud. As you do, ask yourself, does my life reflect this statement?

Key Idea: I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Answer the following questions to help you apply this week's Key Idea to your own life.

1. How would this belief-in-action express itself in your life?

2. What visible attributes can be found in someone who has received the Word of God?

3. If you have reservations about the reliability and/or authority of Scripture, what is your plan for finding answers to your questions?

4. What is a reading plan or resource you can implement to deepen your understanding of God's Word?

5. What are some ways you can filter your thoughts and actions through the truth of God's Word?
