

FINDING LIFE IN SCRIPTURE



HEAR

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

This passage, written by Paul to his disciple Timothy, is both clear and simple, and also complex and deep. One of the special things about Christ's Church is that we are made up of a wide diversity of people who agree on major theological points but can have differing opinions about a lot of details of our faith in Jesus. Looking at this passage, we can see how it gives encouragement for our walk with God and proclaims the life-giving nature of scripture.

- Where else in scripture do we see the idea of something being "God-breathed"? (See: Genesis 2:7, Ezekiel 37:5, John 20:22)
- What does Paul likely mean by "all scripture"? What are different ways to define the phrase "God-breathed"?
- Who are the servants of God, and what good works are they supposed to be doing?
- What words/phrases seem to be pretty clear and universal in their definition? What words do you think can have many different interpretations?



RESPOND

Go and do

Responding to scripture is at the heart of the Christian faith, because it's in the Bible's pages that we learn about the person of Jesus, the Messiah who gives life eternal. This passage tells us that God has given us the scriptures so we can grow in our faith, so that we can show the world God's goodness through our good works. If we believe that these verses are true, it makes sense to ask how to use the Bible to become more like Jesus.

- What do you believe about scripture? Have you noticed any differences in what other Christians believe about scripture?
- Do you feel like scripture is helpful for you in learning how to live in a way that honors God? If it hasn't been, what would you hope for, moving forward?
- What else does scripture do? It's not just an instruction manual, but also a short history of the Messiah and his people, a collection of songs and poems, etc.

Suggestions:

- List 3 things that make sense to you from the passage. List 3 things that seem confusing or even strange.
- Pray and ask God to show you where he wants to teach, rebuke (show your sin), correct (show how to be righteous instead and train you as a beloved child).
- Paul is mentoring Timothy by reminding him the basics of the faith and how to apply the truth about Jesus to his own life and ministry. Brainstorm one person that God might be inviting you to be mentored by, and/or might be called to mentor. Check out this Ministry Playbook course for more info!



DEBRIEF

Reflect on what you learned

- Do you feel different about scripture now than when you started?
- How can you cultivate a love for scripture in your life?
- How can you know that you are making progress in prioritizing scripture's teaching and influence in your life?