

## THE POINT

*God speaks, and we need to listen.*

## BIGGER PICTURE

*It is often easy to say bible reading is important but to approach it is a favor you are doing for God. It is another thing on the "good Christian" to-do list. When we do this, we miss the power of God's word to transform us! We take for granted that God, the creator of all things, has spoken to His people and has preserved His Word in the bible. This transformation often doesn't take place because we binge on Scripture once a month. It is something that happens as we engage day by day. In 2 Timothy, we see Paul encouraging Timothy, a young Christian leader, to "continue" or "abide" in what he had learned from the Holy Scriptures. Journaling is helpful for both writing down reflections and things you hear when reading and being honest about things you are wrestling with, or questions you have, or things you need to confess. One of the great things about journaling is that it helps us approach reading the bible with the expectation that God speaks. Additionally, it provides something for us to look back on to see whether we heard God rightly and celebrate God's faithfulness.*

## Verses:

**2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; John 15:1-8**

## LEADER WIN

*Jen Wilkin uses the idea that "We become what we behold" to describe how we are transformed by better knowing God through the Bible. It is so important to remember that this is a day-by-day process. Not something we can rush or binge. A win this week is helping each student identify a rhythm of engaging with Scripture daily. To start, that may mean reading one Psalm each day. For others, this might mean creating a plan to read the New Testament or entire Bible in a year. Help students identify a sustainable rhythm to begin establishing a daily habit that has the power to change everything.*

## LEADER TIPS

**Accountability.** *Groups are where you grow! But growth does not happen without accountability. We want our groups' places where students feel safe being honest about struggles and failures. We also want our groups to be places where students are challenged to pursue Jesus more and more. If students talk about an area they want to grow, take note and follow up with them. Encourage them to keep one another accountable to where God is stretching them.*

## Getting Started...

1. *If you have anyone new: Have everyone introduce themselves by sharing their name, where they go to school, and one interesting fact about them.*
2. *Remind everyone the purpose of group time and the expectations you have for how it will run.*
3. **Ask this question:** Do you have a nickname? What is it and why?

## The Big Question: **How can we hear God through His Word?**

1. Who are the most important voices in your life? How do you make sure you hear and understand what they are saying? (Friends, Celebrates, Parents, Athletes, YouTubers, etc.)
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5. What sticks out to you about this passage? Why?
3. Reread verses 16-17. Have you seen Scripture to be useful? Why or why not?
4. The word "continue" in verse 14 is the same word translated as "abide" in John 15:1-8. How can you make reading the bible part of your life day by day?
5. Tim Keller writes, "If your god never disagrees with you, you might just be worshiping an idealized version of yourself." How do you handle correction when it comes from Scripture or other people in your life? How can you be more honest with your questions and struggles with the bible?
6. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 talks about how people will be tempted to give up sound doctrine (teaching) and exchange it for whatever sounds good. How can you guard against this?

## Next steps

1. Commit to reading and journaling everyday for the next week. Use the Swedish Bible Reading tool provided as a guide. Even if it is just a sentence for each, write down one thing that really stood out in the passage, one question you have, and one way you will put it into practice. (see page 2 for the tool).
2. Consider memorizing 2 Timothy 3:16-17 together as a group.



As you read the bible look for the following:

**A light bulb:** Something that 'shines', that impacts, or draws your attention.

**A question mark:** Anything not understood from the text, or a question you'd like to ask the writer or God.

**An arrow:** A personal application. How will you apply this?

**A speech bubble with a name:** Someone who would benefit from hearing about what you discovered in the passage

## A template you can use for Bible study

**BIBLE PASSAGE:**

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