

**Scripture**  
Essentials: Live Like You Believe  
April 11, 2021

**Notes:**

*Scripture is authoritative and true.*

*Scripture is alive and active.*

*Scripture is forever.*

*Scripture is worthy of delight.*

*Scripture is to be lived.*

**Questions for Personal Reflection  
and Group Discussion**

**1. Read 2 Timothy 3:16.**

In this verse, the Apostle Paul lists four ways that Scripture is useful. What are they?

How does Scripture accomplish this work in your life?

**2. Read Hebrews 4:12.**

What does this verse say is true about God's Word?

What do you think it means for Scripture to be living and active, and sharper than a double-edged sword?

How does Scripture judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart? In what ways have you experienced this?

**3. Read Isaiah 40:8 and Matthew 24:35.**

Look up the word 'relevant' online or in a dictionary. What does it mean? Do you believe God's Word is relevant today? Why or why not?

What does Matthew 24:35 say about God and His Word?

Explain how these truths about God's Word affect the way you live your life.

**4. Read Psalm 1:1-2, Psalm 119:9-16, and 119:103.**

What do you think it means to delight in God's Word?

What does the person who delights in God's Word, do with it? What impact does it have on their life?

From Psalm 119:9-16, why should we memorize Scripture? Do you make time to meditate on and memorize God's Word? Why or why not?

**5. Read James 1:19-27 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.**

Describe a time when you were a hearer and not a doer of God's Word. What might have been different if you had lived rather than just listened to God's Word?

**6. Read John 14:15.**

This verse is an if-then statement. In your Bible, underline the 'if' part and circle the 'then' part.

What would need to change for you to become more of a doer of God's Word, and not just a hearer? What step of obedience will you take this week?

# Exploring Christ

- Investigating but undecided about the claims of Christianity.
- Struggling mostly with belief in Christ, not with belief in God.
- Attending but not involved in church.
- Possibly a long-time churchgoer.
- Asking questions and taking steps to find answers.

# Growing in Christ

- Needs help taking personal responsibility for all facets of spiritual and emotional health and development.
- Faith begins to take root through significant testing with increasing confidence in and surrender to Jesus Christ.
- Exploring intimacy with Jesus through basic spiritual exercises, including, but not limited to: occasional Bible reading/reflection, prayer, corporate worship, occasional service.
- Beginning to understand and live out basic biblical theology.
- Developing the joy of giving, demonstrated in occasional offering and service.
- Beginning to understand the character of Jesus.
- Learning the importance of Christian community primarily through weekend church attendance.
- Learning to share their faith story with others, excited by occasional opportunities to serve those in need.

# Close to Christ

- Learning to take personal responsibility for all facets of spiritual and emotional health and development.
- Responding in faith through significant testing with increasing confidence in and surrender to Jesus Christ.
- Developing intimacy with Jesus through an increasing variety of spiritual exercises, including, but not limited to: regular Bible reading/reflection, prayer, occasional Bible study, corporate & personal worship, active church membership, consistent service.
- Understands, can explain, and live out basic biblical theology while exploring advanced biblical theology.
- Developing an understanding of stewardship, demonstrated in consistent tithing and service.
- Learning to model the character of Jesus, beginning to demonstrate the Fruit of the Spirit.
- Beginning to understand and live in deeper authentic Christian community.
- Looking for opportunities to share their faith story, and actively seeking opportunities to serve those in need, in their community and around the world.

# Christ-Centered

- Takes personal responsibility for all facets of spiritual and emotional health and development.
- Faith proven over time and thru significant testing with increasing confidence in and surrender to Jesus Christ.
- Actively pursuing intimacy with Jesus through spiritual exercises, including, but not limited to: daily Bible study/prayer, corporate & personal worship, active church membership, sacrificial service, solitude, fasting.
- Understands, can explain, defend, and live out biblical theology.
- Fully integrated understanding of stewardship, demonstrated in tithing and service.
- Motivated to serve in love, modeling the character of Jesus, consistently demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit.
- Lives a grace-filled life marked by unity and accountability in authentic Christian community.
- Intentionally lives out the Great Commission in everyday relationships, as well as serving those in need, in their community and around the world.

Spiritual Beliefs & Attitudes

Church Activities

Personal Spiritual Practices

Spiritual Activities with Others

- **Salvation by Grace**
- **The Trinity**
- Personal God
- Christ is First
- Authority of the Bible

- **Serve the Church**
- Weekend Services
- Small Groups

- **Reflection on Scripture (rare to frequent)**
- Bible Reading (rare to frequent)
- **Prayer to Seek Guidance (occasional to frequent)**
- Prayer to Confess Sins

- Spiritual Friendships

- **Personal God**
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of the Bible
- Christ is First
- Identity in Christ

- **Serve those in Need Through my Church**
- Serve the Church
- Small Groups
- Weekend Services
- Adult Education Classes Focused on Spiritual Topics

- **Reflection on Scripture (frequent)**
- **Prayer to Seek Guidance (frequent to daily)**
- Tithing
- Journaling (rarely)
- Solitude (frequent)
- Bible Reading (frequent)

- **Evangelism**
- Spiritual Friendships
- Serving Those in Need on my own
- Spiritual Mentors

- **Giving Away my Life**
- **Christ is First**
- **Identity in Christ**
- **Authority of the Bible**
- Stewardship

- **Serve those in Need Through my Church**
- Additional Teaching/Worship Service

- **Reflection on Scripture (frequent to daily)**
- Bible Reading (frequent)
- Tithing
- Journaling
- Solitude (frequent)
- Prayer to Confess Sins (daily)
- Prayer to Seek Guidance (daily)

- Evangelism
- Spiritual Mentors
- Serving Those in Need on my own