**Theme:** Using the Word of God

**Scripture:** All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.  God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

**Reference:** Our blueprint for ministry is God’s Word.  FFC’s Core Values

**Discussion Points**:

1. I pose a statement to you: The Bible matters because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

How would you fill in the blank? What answer would you give as to why the Bible matters to you personally?

1. Are we quick to help a fellow believer in need with our opinion or experience? Or use Scripture to help find an answer?
2. Do I believe that when I read scripture it is to be followed by action on my part? Or do I read it for the head knowledge but not willing to follow what it says?
3. How does the Word of God prepare and equip us? Give some examples of this in your life.

**Commentary for Leaders Study**

**Barnes’ Notes on the Bible**

That the man of God may be perfect - The object is not merely to convince and to convert him; it is to furnish all the instruction needful for his entire perfection. The idea here is, not that any one is absolutely perfect, but that the Scriptures have laid down the way which leads to perfection, and that, if any one were perfect, he would find in the Scriptures all the instruction which he needed in those circumstances. There is no deficiency in the Bible for man, in any of the situations in which he may be placed in life; and the whole tendency of the book is to make him who will put himself fairly under its instructions, absolutely perfect.

**Matthew Henry Concise**

3:14-17 Those who would learn the things of God, and be assured of them, must know the Holy Scriptures, for they are the Divine revelation. They must not lie by us neglected, seldom or never looked into. The Bible is a sure guide to eternal life. 2Pe 1:21. It is profitable for all purposes of the Christian life. It is of use to all, for all need to be taught, corrected, and reproved. There is something in the Scriptures suitable for every case. Oh that we may love our Bibles more, and keep closer to them! Then shall we find benefit, and at last gain the happiness therein promised by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the main subject of both Testaments. We best oppose error by promoting a solid knowledge of the word of truth.

**David Guzik - Enduring Word**

d. **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God**: Remember that one may believe in the inspiration of the Bible in *principle*, but deny it in *practice*.

We do this by imposing our own meaning on the text instead of letting it speak for itself. We do this by putting more of our self in the message than what God says. We do this by being more interested in our opinions; than in explaining and proclaiming what God has said.

Instead, we honor God and His word by, as much as possible, simply letting the text explain and teach itself; to speak for itself.

**This** doesn’t mean that the whole Christian life is about reading the Bible, or that the only important thing in good ministry is good Bible teaching. **It**means the Bible leads me into everything I need. If I will be both a hearer and a doer of the word, I will be **complete** as a Christian, **thoroughly equipped for every good work**.

So, I don’t ignore prayer, or worship, or evangelism, or good works to a needy world – because the Bible itself tells me to do such things. If I will be both a hearer and a doer of the word, I will be **complete**.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God **is alive** and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

Joshua 1:8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the lord your God is with you wherever you go.”