

**SCRIPTURE AND
KEY SERMON NOTES:**

CORE VALUE: BIBLE TEACHING

We do not believe obeying God's Word restricts our lives; We believe Scripture empowers people to flourish. We believe that the Bible doesn't just inform us; it transforms us when we live it out. We will not just be taught the Word; we will study it, share it, and live it!

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 1:22 ESV

5 OBSTACLES THAT KEEP US FROM BEING EMPOWERED DOERS OF GOD'S WORD.

1) DON'T KNOWING WHAT IT IS...

BIBLE 101:

Definition: God's written, divine revelation of Himself to mankind, containing all knowledge requires by God for righteousness and relationship with Him.

Shorter Definition: God's love letter to mankind.

66 books, One Masterpiece Story: Written by over 40 authors across 1600 years, over 3 continents, yet unified in theme—God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ.

Old Testament and New Testament:

OT (39): The foundation—God's covenant, the Law, and the prophecies pointing to Jesus.

NT (27): The fulfillment—Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and the Church's call to live out the Gospel.

START PRAYING:

Father in Heaven, thank you for the opportunity to flourish. We acknowledge that this is a simple word for a complex part of life. Help us to navigate it with grace and for your glory. Teach us to flourish as you teach us to rely more deeply on you as our true source of satisfaction in life. In Jesus' name, amen!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

START TALKING:

What's something you've heard over and over but struggled to put into action? (A piece of advice, a skill, etc.)

If you could instantly memorize one chapter of the Bible, which one would it be and why?

START THINKING:

In James 1, Christians are given several instructions for godly living. Read it as a group and share your favorite piece of advice.

Focus on James 1:22 and the surrounding context. What does it mean to be a hearer of the Word versus a doer?

Follow-up: How can someone deceive themselves when it comes to Scripture?

A common issue with people not engaging in Scripture is rooted in the perception of it being a "life restrictor" rather than an empowering tool.

Why do you think that is?

Follow-up: how does Scripture empower our lives?

START SHARING:

What part of this passage or the message is impacting your life most and why?

How is James 1:22 beautiful? Brutal?

Is there a passage of Scripture or biblical truth that has impacted your life most? What passage and why?

As a group list as many of the "bonus benefits" of Scripture that were discussed in the message. Why do you think people experience those blessings as they engage in Scripture and faith in their daily life in addition to their church involvement?

What's your biggest obstacle to consistently reading and applying God's Word? How can your group support you in overcoming it?

Which genre that biblical principles are presented in (historical, parables, poetic, prophetic, etc.) do enjoy most/relate to the most?

START DOING:

Name the "When and Where": Before leaving today, commit to a specific time and place where you will read the Bible this week.