

# LIVING



# sent

## Week Two: Bible 101

### THE MISSIONARY TASK

#### Component Three: Discipleship

## INTRODUCTION

As we strive to both be and make disciples, we recognize the foundational importance of the Bible in the life of the Christian. However, it can feel overwhelming when we consider the scope and complexity of the Bible--how do we adequately communicate the significance of the Bible to others? How can we ourselves abide in the word (John 8:31)? The Word made flesh shows us (John 1:14). Jesus himself modeled what it looked like to “rightly divide the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15) with an eye to making disciples.

## BIBLICAL MATERIAL

How can we practice Bible-based discipleship like Jesus did?

### 1. Hold a high view of scripture.

We have a text-based faith. God’s word is his definitive revelation of himself. It is essential that we understand the Bible to be inspired, inerrant, infallible, sufficient, and authoritative. In his ministry, Jesus clearly pointed to the supremacy of Scripture. He frequently began his teaching by saying, “it is written” and then quoting extensively from the Old Testament. He also demonstrated that scripture is imperishable and enduring. He tells his listeners that he has “not come to abolish [the Law or the Prophets], but to fulfill them” (Matt. 5:17) and that “scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35).

### 2. Know the big picture story of the Bible.

Despite consisting of 66 books composed over the course of centuries at the hand of various divinely-inspired human authors, the Bible is one story, and the hero of that story is Jesus. We can outline the overarching plot of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, as the story of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. Jesus taught that the whole Bible was pointing to him. On the road to Emmaus, “beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:27). He says explicitly, “Moses wrote about me” (John 5:46).

### 3. Live by the word. Love the word.

When facing temptation in the wilderness, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4). We do not study the Bible merely as an intellectual exercise. For the Christian disciple, the word of God is as sustaining and nourishing to the spirit as food is to the body.

## MISSIONARY TASK RELEVANCY

The practical application is clear. If we hold a high view of scripture, we will hold a high view of God. We will know the Bible, obey it, and model that obedience (Matt. 5:19).

When we teach the one big story of the Bible with Christ at the center, we see the unity of God's word and we avoid theological error.

When we live by the word, we will be saturated with it.

Jesus countered lies (John 8:12-18) and temptation by the word (Matt. 4:1-11); he ministered to the broken people around him by the word (Matt. 9:9-13); and he declared the truth of the gospel by the word (Luke 4:16-21).

We can follow his example and help others to do the same.

## LIFE APPLICATION

1. What do you find intimidating about discipling with the Bible? How might you gain confidence to overcome these concerns?
2. How does the church model a high view of scripture? How can families or individual believers demonstrate a high view of scripture?
3. Do you typically think about the Bible as one story or as a collection of various characters, events, and messages? How would looking for Jesus on every page help you to see the connections from Genesis to Revelation?
4. Many points of scripture describe delighting in God's word (Ps. 1:1-3, Ps. 119:47, Rom. 7:22, Jer. 15:16). How can we cultivate this kind of delight in our own hearts? What would be the outcome of such an attitude?
5. What does it look like to live by the word? How have you seen faithful Christians model this practice?

