

**LEADERTREKS** **SERMON SERIES****MARK OF A DISCIPLE**

Disciples of Christ are changed through God's Word.

**SCRIPTURE**

2 TIMOTHY 3:14–4:5

**SERMON OVERVIEW**

Today we are starting the first lesson in our Revealed series and focusing on how God's primary way of revealing himself is through Scripture. While the main purpose of Scripture is for God to reveal himself, it's important to remember that God also uses Scripture to change our lives. From growing in goodness to loving others more, Christ-followers need to be immersed in Scripture to live their fullest life.

**OPENING****WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**GAME AND ICE BREAKER QUESTION**

- We recommend **Obscure Trivia** or another screen game from **Deep Discipleship Games**.
- When was a time you had to tell someone something you know they didn't want to hear?

**MESSAGE**

*Use the following teaching points and suggested illustrations as a starting point to build your message.*

**READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:14–15, 17****POINT 1: God's Word requires study**

Paul urged Timothy, a young pastor, "continue in what you have learned" (v. 14). The depth of God's Word is limitless. There will always be more and more and more we can learn and benefit from.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Tell a **personal story** about something in your life that has required constant attention/development. (Example: Guitar skills fade when you don't play consistently, don't remember algebra as well anymore because you don't use it every day.)

Scripture brings wisdom and understanding of Christ and his work (v. 15). It also equips us to live as he did and follow the example of his work (v. 17). But this comes from continuing to be in God's Word.

## READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:16

### POINT 2: God's Word is alive

Even though men physically wrote the words we read in Scripture, those words came from God. The prophets and writers of Scripture didn't create their own interpretations of what God said; "they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20–21). Every syllable was "breathed out" by the Lord. And this is also how God brought us to life: by breathing life into us (Gen. 2:7).

The Bible is different from every other book because it is alive (Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:23). Because of this, Scripture speaks to us differently at different points in our faith journey. This is why we can read a passage this year, then the same passage next year, and learn something totally new from it. God can speak to us differently through the same passage at different times in our lives as we move into different places spiritually.

## READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5

### POINT 3: God's Word must be shared

Because of the life-changing power of God's Word, it must be shared with other people. But Paul warns us to have "complete patience" (v. 2) while we do this. God's Word is absolute truth (2 Sam. 7:28; Psalm 119:151), and sometimes hearing the truth is difficult for us.

*ILLUSTRATION:* Tell a **personal story** about a time you had to tell someone (or were told) a difficult truth for their good. (Example: doctor informs you that you're not as healthy as you think or you have to tell someone they need a tutor.)

Even though it can be difficult to hear at times, biblical truth is what opens our eyes to who God is and allows him to change us for the better.

### CLOSING REFLECTION

*Use this prompt to wrap up your message and leave your students with a challenge to apply.*

- What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "God's Word"?
- What impact could the Bible make in your life this week?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

*Pick a few questions from below to discuss. Close with prayer.*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is it like for you to get to know someone new?
- What's one thing you have wanted to learn about but didn't know where to start?
- Why do you think Paul thought it was important to write this to Timothy?
- How can you use the Bible to find out about what God thinks?
- What is something you'd like to know about God that you can learn from his Word?
- What risks did God take revealing himself to us?
- What does it teach us about God that he chooses to reveal himself to us?
- How does this passage say the Bible can change our lives?

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Spend time this week reading from one of the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John—to learn about who Jesus is. Write down any observations and questions you have and then discuss with a parent, friend, or youth leader.

### PRAYER

Close by praying or invite someone to pray for your group.  
*Use this space to keep track of any prayer requests.*

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