

# Talking about the Bible

## Assumptions (belief without definitive proof)

### 1. **All** believers talk about the Bible

Informally with kids, family members, coworkers, and/or friends

Formally in church settings (Sunday school, worship services)

### 2. Believers don't always follow a very **Bible**-informed process (when talking about the Bible)

**Have you ever wanted to go back and 'redo' a conversation about the Bible?** None of us gets it right all of the time (sometimes we move too quickly, sometimes we say things that aren't true, and sometimes we make it up).

### 3. In our current age of outrage, believers **can** do better

The message of the gospel of Jesus Christ deserves a biblical approach.

## Objectives (what we want in talking about the Bible)

### 1. Be **prepared** (Titus 2:1-5)

**1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: 2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.)** Older women are to teach. Older men are to be sound in faith. Both of these involve knowing and communicating truth. Let's be ready for old age.

### 2. Be **faithful** (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

**1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.)** We are stewards of God's word.

### 3. Be **engaging** (heads, hearts, and hands)

We are not trying to create Pharisees, but faithful believers—just like Jesus.

## Assertions (these things are true)

1. God tells us what the Bible **is** (it is God's authoritative, inerrant, clear, necessary, and sufficient word; HT: Wayne Grudem; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12)

**16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

**For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

2. God tells us what the Bible **gives** (2 Peter 1:1-4)

**1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,**

**To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:**

**2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

God has given us everything we need related to life and godliness. We have this from knowledge of God from the power of God through the Son of God as revealed in the word of God.

3. God tells us the **resources** He provides (to help believers talk about the Bible)

God has given us His Spirit, His Word, and His church to help us. The Holy Spirit and the Bible provide illumination and the church provides confirmation (and/or rebuke). (And we scale up and down as opportunities and wisdom dictates.)

## Schedule (where we're going, Lord willing)

**Today:** Introduction & prayer; **next week:** hearing; **December 2:** thinking; **December 9:** talking; **December 16:** sharing

## Overview of this series

The Bible gives us ideas on how to approach talking about the Bible. These include praying for help, hearing God's word, thinking about God's word, talking to others about God's word, and finally sharing God's word.

There's no single passage that walks us through all of these steps, but this series is about looking across the Scriptures to see what the Bible tells us about how to talk about the Bible—because if the Bible gives us all things for life and godliness, it will certainly tell us how to use the Bible.

## Process Step #1: Pray

### Our attitudes

#### 1. **Fear** (Proverbs 9:10)

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.** When we talk about the Bible, we are talking about God's very words. There should be fear with this because God does not take this lightly. We shouldn't either.

#### 2. **Dependence** (2 Chronicles 20)

**12: O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.** This is also an acknowledgement that we are not God.

#### 3. **Expectancy** (Psalm 119:18; James 1:5)

**Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.** We can trust God to be faithful to His word.  
**If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.** God desires to give to His own.

## Our actions

### 1. Pray for **illumination** (1 Corinthians 2:12; Ephesians 1:15-21)

**Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.** The Spirit enables us to understand what God has given to us.

**15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.**

### 2. Pray for **wisdom** (James 1:5)

**If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

### 3. Pray for **hearing** for the hearers (Revelation 2:7a, 11a, 17a, 29; 3:6, 13, 22)

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches**

## Next week: Process Step #2: Hear

## Homework

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for help in understanding \_\_\_\_\_
2. Invite a member or non-member

## Suggested resource

Jen Wilkin, *Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014)