

# We want to be ... a Bible-based community

## discussion guide

based on **2 Timothy 3.14-17** (Linked to sermon of 15/1/17)  
which can be accessed at [www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series](http://www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series)

*This was the second in a short series "The sort of community we want to be" looking at some of our church values.*

**Intro:** What's your favourite Bible verse at the moment, and why? (Don't worry if you can't remember it exactly!)

Dan mentioned some possible dangers if we're not rooted in the Bible: we'll forget who God really is, we'll forget who we are as God sees us, we won't live out our new identity, we'll forget the promises and warnings God gives, we'll be led astray by false teaching.

Can you think of examples (from your own or other people's lives) of where you've seen these things beginning to happen?

Can you think of any other dangers of not being rooted in the Bible?

What are some of the things that stop you exploring or engaging with the Bible more?

### **Read 2 Timothy 3.14-17**

What does it mean to say that all Scripture is 'God-breathed' (v16)?

What are the implications of that statement?

Dan suggested that the Bible is therefore

- uniquely relational (it draws us to God himself),
- uniquely inspired (more so than any preachers or prophecies today, which have to be weighed),
- uniquely authoritative (it's the plumb line to measure our culture against),
- uniquely powerful (God's words bring transformation, not information),
- uniquely relevant (God's word is eternal so speaks to all cultures throughout history),
- uniquely useful (v17 – it equips us for the ministries God calls us to) and
- uniquely personal (v14-15, 17 – it's addressed to everyone personally).

Do you agree / disagree?

If these statements about the Bible are true, in what ways could reading the Bible more be beneficial to you?

**Up:** How do you personally want to engage with the Bible over the coming weeks? What resources might help you?

**In:** What could you do to help each other to go deeper in God's word?

**Out:** When people say "The Bible is just a load of fairy stories" – how could you respond? What positive things could you say about the role the Bible has played in your life (personal testimony is hard to refute!)?

### **Pray:**

Pray that we'll become more dependent on God's word as a church community. If you want, pray this prayer together, based on Psalm 119 and other passages:

*Your word, O Lord, is eternal (Ps 119.87).*

*It is alive and active (Heb 4.12), the sword of the spirit (Eph 6.17).*

*Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law (119.18).*

*Give me understanding that I may keep your law and obey with all my heart (119.34).*

*Make your words sweeter than honey to my mouth (119.103), more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold (119.72).*

*For the unfolding of your words give light (119.136), a light for my path (119.105).*

*Your commands make me wiser than my enemies and give me more insight than all my teachers (119.98-99). Through them I gain understanding (119.104).*

*So incline my heart to love your law and meditate on it all day long (119.97)*

*May I receive your word with great eagerness and examine the scriptures carefully (Ac 17.11),*

*yet save me from thinking that the scriptures give eternal life (Jn 5.39).*

*Save me from merely listening to your word (Jas 1.22).*

*Give me ears to hear (Mk 4) that I may do what you say and feel the confidence of building my life on rock-solid foundations (Mt 7.27).*

*May my heart burn within me as your Spirit opens your word to me (Lk 24.32).*

*As your word cuts to the bone and judges the thoughts and attitudes of my heart (Heb 4.12) may it be at work in me (1 Thess 2.13) to lead me to life in you, Jesus (Jn 5.40).*