

**Foundations (3 of 4)**  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, January 30th 2022**



**Sermon Series Focus:** *Foundations* is a 4-week sermon series that calls us to address the spiritual foundations of our life in Christ. We will see how the gospel challenges us to commit to following Jesus together, which involves regular rhythms of prayer, reading Scripture, and deepening relationships.

**Sermon Title:** The Call to Scripture

**Scripture Reading:** 2 Kings 22:1-13; Psalm 119:1-16; John 5:39-40; Hebrews 4:12

**Sermon Focus:** While it certainly requires interpretation and communal discernment, faithful disciples believe that the Bible is divinely inspired and authoritative—a trustworthy guide for faith and practice today. Therefore, we should engage with the Scriptures. But as Jesus said, our study and reading of it should *lead us to know him*, or we're missing the point. Listen as Pastor David shares how we can read the Scripture to know God, help us to hear his voice, and experience the abiding presence of Christ.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began his message with a short video clip of Chinese seminarians receiving a package full of Bibles in their language, their first personal copies. Some of them hold the Bible to their face, embrace it, cry, and rejoice. One woman says, "This is what we needed the most." How did you feel when you saw this video? What did you think? How might God want us to respond?
2. In his book, *When Everything is on Fire: Faith Forged From the Ashes*, Brian Zahnd says there are basically three stages of growth in our approach to the Scriptures: a literal reading, an analytical reading, and a mystical reading. Where would you say you are in your journey? Share where you are and what you've observed in others. Also, explore what a "mystical" reading looks like.
3. Read John 5:39-40. How might this apply to American Christians today?
4. What do you feel is your greatest challenge in reading (or listening) to the Bible on a regular basis? Be honest and share that with the group. What might you need to do in order to adopt a new routine, or change up your routine?
5. If you have a regular "quiet time" with God, please share with your group what that looks like. How do you do it? What works for you? How has that changed over the years or in different seasons of life? How might you encourage others?
6. Many of us didn't grow up with *Lectio Divina*, an ancient practice of prayerfully reading the Scriptures to that we might encounter and experience God.
7. Breathing, chanting, and embracing silence, a "centering" prayer practice that helps us prepared to meet with God, may seem strange to many evangelical Christians today. But truthfully, it's because largely Christians in the West have lost many Eastern forms and practices of the Christian faith, which date back to the first few centuries of the Church. How might God be calling you to grow in this area? Could it be that the Spirit is calling us to re-discover this practice?
8. Finally, share your experience with Pastor David leading us through *Lectio Divina* with Matthew 14:22-33. Was that helpful? Have you done this on your own? Have you tried one of the apps he mentioned? How is God speaking to you?