



LIVE the **WORD**

IT'S EVERYTHING!

SMALL GROUP LEADER

Word

Word

**SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 1:3;
John 1:1 & 14; Colossians 3:16**

Group leaders should:

- "Set the table" for interaction and group discussion by (4 minutes):
 - explaining the idea of the week's theme
 - explaining the context of the main passage(s) to be discussed
- **Debrief from weekly reading (8-10 minutes)**
- *Facilitating, Discipling, Guiding, Shepherding* **(30 minutes)**

Small Group Questions:

- 1. The first words ever spoken were "let there be light" in Genesis 1:3. What does this reveal about God?**
- 2. What does the explanation that Jesus is "the Word" in John 1:1 & 14 reveal about Jesus?**
- 3. How does it feel to realize that you speak and hear, write and read words because Jesus is the Word?**
- 4. What can you do this week to allow the Word of Christ to dwell in you more richly (Col. 3:16)?**
- 5. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you about the use of your words? What plans do you need to make this week to obey the Holy Spirit?**

SET THE TABLE

Words are everywhere. We write words. We speak and listen to words. We think in words. But what is a word? Have you ever thought about that? Words written are ink on paper or images on a screen. After you speak a word, where does it go? Say “power” right now. Where is that “power?”

While we can see that words are not easily understood we all know that words are powerful. Words communicate, equip, strengthen, prepare, and encourage, or they tear down, discourage, and destroy. Words are powerful!

Colossians 3:16 tells us to “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” Our knowledge of God and the richness of our lives is contingent on our understanding of and living out “the Word.”

So what is that Word?

The Spoken Word, Genesis 1:3

God spoke the creation into existence. He created everything out of nothing by the power of His Word. He spoke to different people in the OT.

The Written Word, 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. It is true and pure. It will never pass away. It always accomplishes the purpose God intends.

The Living Word, John 1:1

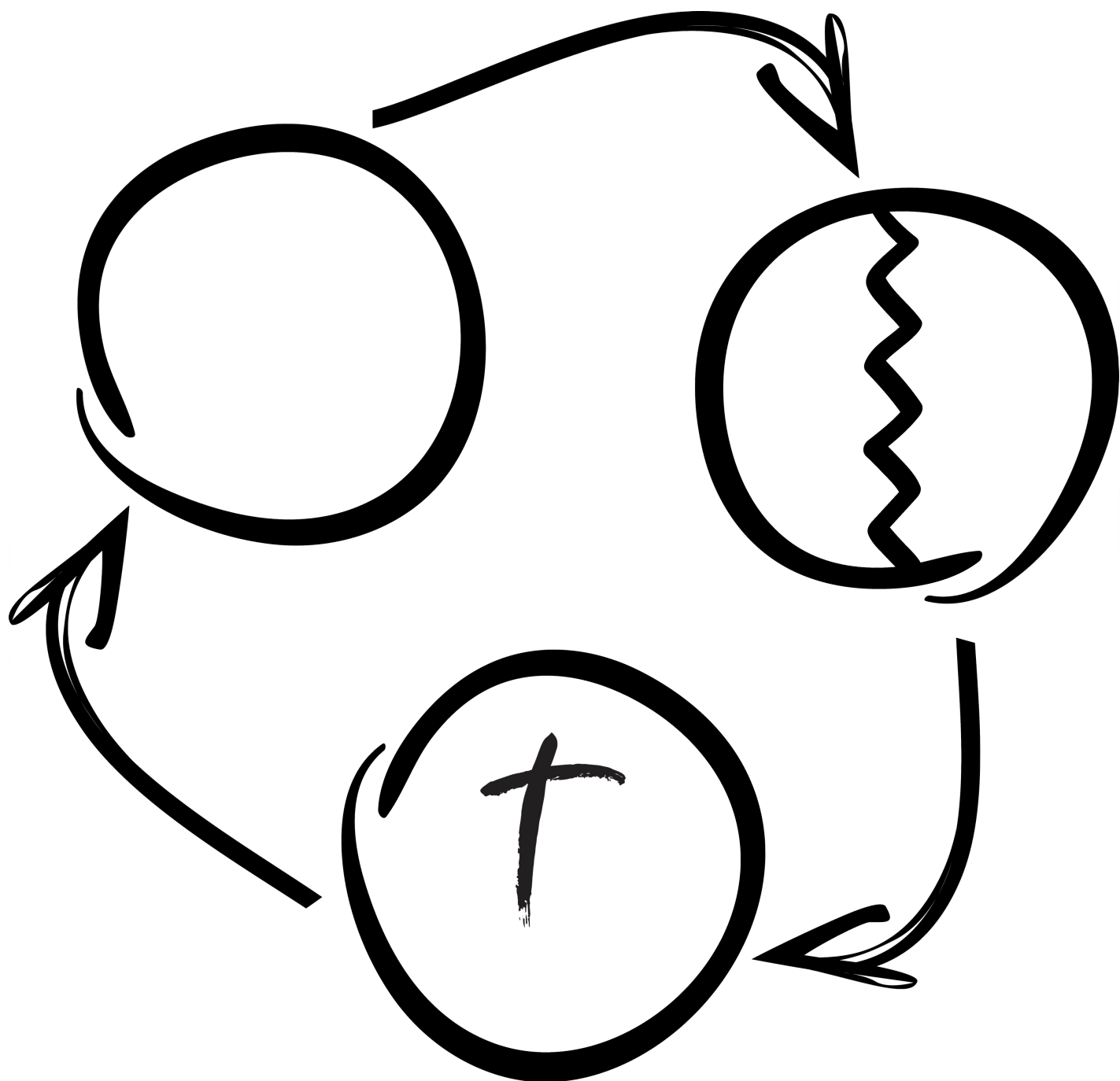
Jesus is the eternal Word—He creates, communicates, saves, judges, rules, and loves. When the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, He is the full and perfect revelation of God.

The Proclaimed Word 2 Timothy 4:2

The Word is proclaimed in preaching. The preaching of the word is central in the life of the church. The Word is proclaimed in missions and evangelism to make disciples from Wynne to the world.

The Final Word Revelation 19:13

The Bible crescendos with Jesus the Word of God coming save, judge, rule and reign.



Word - Commentary

The theme of the Word runs throughout the Bible, from the first chapter to the last chapter. God by His very nature communicates. He does not leave us in the dark guessing about God or what He is like. The Word is God's self-revelation Through the Word God reveals Himself so we can know Him, love Him, worship Him, and serve Him.

The Word of God is essential in making disciples in whom the Word abides in their hearts. Disciples have been taught to observe all things that Jesus has commanded us, which means disciples live the Word.

The exhortation and command to let the word of Christ dwell richly in us emphasizes the importance of the Word in the life of the believer and in the church. We are going to look at five aspects of the Word.

The Spoken Word

In Genesis 1 God created everything out of nothing by the power of His spoken Word. The phrase, "And God said," appears over and over let there be light, let there be oceans and dry land, let there be the sun, moon and stars, let there be fish and other sea dwellers, let there be vegetation, let there be the animal kingdom, and let us make man in our image. Hebrews 11:3 says, "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

In the Old Testament God spoke to individuals. For example, He spoke to Noah with the instructions to build the Ark. He spoke to Moses out of the burning bush and revealed His name Yahweh, "I am who I am." On Mt. Sinai He spoke to Moses the Ten Commandments and Law. He spoke to Abraham calling him out of Ur and making a covenant with him. He spoke to Abraham about offering the son of promise, Isaac, and then about His provision of a substitute offering, pointing to God giving His Son to die for our sins.

God spoke to the prophets. The books of the prophets often begin with, "The word of the LORD came to..." And over and over the prophets would say, "Thus says the Lord."

Kings and priests were to speak the word of the Lord. But most often they failed. As a result, Israel so often departed from the LORD.

The Written Word

The Bible is the written Word of God. It is the inspired Word. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All scripture is breathed out by God." God breathed, inspired the human authors to write the exact words He wanted in the Bible. He used human authors, but God is the Author of the Bible. 2 Peter 1:21 adds, "For no prophecy [Scripture] was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God, as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." The Bible is the very Word of God. What the Bible says God says. Because God is the Author of the Bible it is true, it is inerrant, without error, and it is infallible, reliable and trustworthy. Psalm 12:6 says God's words are pure words. Psalm 18:30 says the words of the LORD are perfect and proven true. Isaiah 40:8 says Word of God will stand forever. Isaiah 55:11 says that God's Word will always accomplish the purpose to which the Lord appointed it.

Because the Bible is the very Word of God, it is the authority in the life of every believer and every church in faith and practice. It is the authority in what we believe and how we live.

Word - Commentary

The written Word of God is powerful and active in our salvation, Romans 10:17 declares that “faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of God.” 2 Timothy 2:15 declares the Scriptures make us “wise unto salvation.” And 1 Peter 1:23 declares, “since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of the imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.”

The written Word of God is powerful and active in our sanctification. In John 17:17 Jesus prayed for us asking the Father, “Sanctify them in truth, your word is truth.” Among the ways the Bible works in our sanctification:

- In Psalm 19:7-8 it revives the soul when we are beaten down. It makes us wise in God’s ways. It rejoices our hearts in the Lord, And it enlightens our eyes with truth.
- In Psalm 119 it guards our hearts from sin in verse 11. It strengthens us in verse 28. It is a lamp to our feet and a light to our paths in a dark world in verse 105. It keeps our feet steady in faithfulness in verse 133.
- In 2 Timothy 3:16 it teaches what to believe, it gives us reproof showing what is wrong in our lives, correction showing how to make it right, and it instructs us in righteousness, how to live the Word.
- Abiding in Christ means that His Word is abiding in you.
- In Ephesians 6:17 it is the sword of the Spirit in spiritual warfare.

The written Word of God is powerful and active in making disciples.

- It is the content of teaching disciples to observe all that Jesus commanded us.
- Abiding in Christ involves His word abiding in you (John 15:7).
- Disciples have the word of dwelling richly in them, Colossians 3:16.
- Disciples are not just hearers of the Word but doers of the Word (James 1;22). Disciples live the Word.

Because the Bible is God’s written Word and it is to dwell richly in us:

- Read it prayerfully. A day without time in the Word and prayer is a wasted day.
- Study it carefully. Dig deep into the Word.
- Meditate on it deeply. What does it tell me about God? What does it tell me about me? How should I respond to what God says?
- Memorize it regularly. Hide God’s Word in your heart.
- Apply it daily. Live the Word.

Word - Commentary

The Living Word

Jesus is the living Word. He is the full and perfect revelation of God. In John 1:1-5 Jesus is the eternal Word—He creates, communicates, saves, judges, rules and loves. In John 1:14 the Word became flesh and we beheld His glory as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

In Hebrews 1:2-3, God has spoken to us by His Son who is the radiance of His glory. When Jesus spoke, God the Father spoke. Jesus is the ultimate Prophet, King, and Priest. All the promises of God are in Jesus yes and men. He speaks through the teaching of Jesus.

The Proclaimed Word

The Word is proclaimed through preaching. Preaching is central in the life and ministry of the church. In 2 Timothy 4, the last chapter in Paul's last book, he gives a solemn charge, "Preach the Word." In Acts 6 when the issue of the feeding of widows became a problem that threatened the unity of church, the apostles said it was not right for them to leave the ministry of the Word and prayer to wait tables. They led the church to set aside deacon to meet the physical needs of the church. The book of Acts is filled with preaching. The calling of the pastor is the ministry of the Word. Preaching is the exposition of the Word of truth, explaining it and applying it. Martin Luther said, "The highest form of worship is the preaching of the Word." Preaching is worship and anchors the church in the knowledge of God, the glory of God, and the exaltation of Jesus. Preaching the Word nourishes the church. It builds the church on sound doctrine. It gives the church body the direction of the Head of the body, Jesus.

The Word is proclaimed in missions and evangelism. It is gospel proclamation that makes disciple from Wynne to the world. Romans 10:13 says, "Now everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Then verses 14, asks three critical questions. One, "How then will they call upon him in whom they have not believed?" Two, "And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard?" And three, "And how are they to hear without someone preaching." Preaching here is heralding, announcing passionately the message of King Jesus, the gospel. Then verse 15 asks, "And how are they to preach [herald, announce, passionately share the gospel] unless they are sent?" All of us are sent ones in the Great Commission, "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in Heaven and Earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20.

The Final Word

Revelation 19 describes the return of Jesus riding on a white horse. Verse 13 describes, "He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is the Word of God." The living Word is the Eternal Word. He is coming to save and to judge. He is coming to rule and to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. No wonder the Bible ends with, "Come Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:30).