January 2022

# newark united pentecostal church





**Key Concept:** We are motivated to pursue our mission of ALL making disciples of ALL by our core values. They are our why. This lesson examines Word as demonstrated by Biblical preaching and teaching through faith and the Holy Spirit, which leads us ALL.



### **Scriptures:**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16–17 *New Living Translation*)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He existed in the beginning with God.... <sup>14</sup> So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.

(John 1:1–2, 14 *New Living Translation*)

**Context Scriptures:** Psalm 33:6, 119:89; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 4:4, 24:35; 2 Timothy 3:14–17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:16–21



### **Lesson Thoughts:**

In any endeavor, it makes a huge difference to our commitment when there is a clear understanding of our why. The Word is the foundation of "why we do what we do." The Word is the instruction manual for our understanding of God and our relationships with both him and our fellow humans. It follows that the Word, illuminated by the power of the Holy Spirit, must be the basis for all teaching and preaching.

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The Word = God. The Word was in the beginning. It was with God, and it was God (John 1:1). The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). The Word is God himself and is to be loved, revered, studied, and obeyed.

Paul states in 2 Timothy 3:16 that all Scripture is "inspired by God," which literally translates from the Greek, *theopneustos*, as "God-breathed." God as the Word breathed out words recorded in Scripture just as he breathed out words that brought the universe into existence. The Scriptures are God's revelation and communication to humanity.¹ They contain all the elements we need to receive salvation, learn what is true, and realize what is wrong in our lives. They prepare and equip us to do every good work.

As Jesus prayed for his disciples, he said, "Make them holy by your truth: teach them your word, which is truth" (John 17:17). It is the Word that equips God's people to live a life of holiness. Since God's ways are far above our ways, it is through his Word that we are transformed into new people by changing the way we think and then learning to know God's perfect will for us (Romans 12:2).

The Word of the Lord remains *forever* (1 Peter 1:25). In a world where evil and good seem so interchangeable, the Word will always remain the same. God will *never* instruct us to go against it.

# **?** Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why do you think Word was chosen as one of our core values?
- 2) Some have said, "It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere." How would you respond to this statement?
- 3) Think of a time when knowledge of the Scriptures guided you through a difficult decision. In what ways did the Scriptures help?
- 4) How has God as the Word personally affected your life?

**Next Lesson:** Discipleship

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> David K. Bernard, *Understanding God's Word* (Hazelwood, MO: Word Aflame Press, 1984), 13–14.

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#### **Notes and Reflections**

1)	Choose at least one verse about the Word of God and commit it to memory.
	Copy it here.

- 2) Think about your commitment to reading and studying the Scriptures. Pray for direction. Would God have you to do it differently?
- 3) Do a slow read of these verses from the Discipleship Lesson The Word of God. (A New Life, Lesson 1)

John 1:1–5

Hebrews 1:1

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 24:35 (Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33)

Psalm 119:89

Isaiah 40:8

1 Peter 1:25

2 Timothy 3:14–17

John 17:17

Psalm 119:9

Psalm 119:105

Psalm 119:11

## Small Group Lesson Quarter 1, Lesson 1

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Notes and Reflections, cont.