

God Is: Trinity
God Speaks: Revelation
God Creates: Creation
God Loves: Anthropology

This Week's Big Question: How Do We Know God?

Jerimiah 30:2

***"This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says:
'Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you.'***

With 3 kids and a dog, the Holding household is a noisy place (surprise!). While I often take it for granted how precious it is to hear my children speak, one of our children had a significant speech delay when they were younger. While most 4 years old can say 1,000 words and speak in sentences, our child could only manage a series of grunts. But it taught me that words are key building blocks to a relationship. We get to know people by talking to them and especially by listening to them. 4 years of listening to my child's grunts and attempts at speech allowed me to know him and what he was saying, even when no one else could. It's the same with God. We get to know God by listening to him speak. Do you ever pause to consider the profound truth that God has spoken? Or like me, do you sometimes take it for granted? So how do we not take the Bible for granted?

We remember two beautiful truths. The first is that God has given us his Word. Without the Bible we are in the dark. God is either 'out there' to be determined or 'inside us' to be discovered. But both approaches create confusion, as everyone has a different picture of God made in their own image. But God is bigger and better than that. Throughout history, God has chosen to speak to women, like Eve, Sarah, Deborah and Mary. He has spoken to men like Moses, Samuel, Paul and John. God has spoken most clearly through His son Jesus.

The thing is, God didn't need to do it. The God of the universe didn't require human words to exist, to create or to rule. Yet out of his great love for us he chooses to humble himself and use human words so we may have true knowledge of him. When we remember that God has given us His Word in the bible, it helps us to not take him for granted. In the words of scripture, we see his character, his majesty and beauty. As we read the Bible, we come to intimately know, love and serve him.

The second beautiful truth we need to remember is that God continues to speak. If we only see the Bible as a record of God's revelation in the past, then we are free to interpret and apply it however we please. As we have seen in our Household of God series, when we do this, we end up in a washing machine trying to work out who God is and what it means to be human.

But God is bigger and better than that. As we read the Bible, God's Spirit brings these words alive. He illuminates our hearts, so we see them as God's truth for us today. This means as we read God's Word, he speaks to us today. You see, there is no separation between God and his Word. Humans may err in their speech; they may mis-speak and later try to distance themselves from what they said. But God never mis-speaks, and he never miscalculates his word. God never changes, and God's word never changes. God's Word is God's authority for us today. When we remember that God continues to speak through his word, we are recognising that God's Word is the authority of God. Therefore it must be the ultimate truth in our lives.

J.I. Packer says, 'Christianity is the true knowledge, and true worship of God' The Bible is how God has revealed himself to us. Nobody would know the truth about God or be able to relate to him in a personal way, had not God first acted to make himself known. God has spoken, and wants to speak to us, this week will you see the Bible as the precious gift of God, and hear him speak?

THREE QUESTIONS

When are you tempted to take God's Word for granted?

What does it look like for God's Word to be the authority in your life?

How could you describe the beauty of the Bible to someone who doesn't go to church?

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Craft a memory verse poster from a daily reading. Chat about why we need to remember God's Word.

Everything A Child Should Know About God: Part 1

The-ology: Chapters 60-71

PTC Course: Introduction To The Bible

LIVING AND ACTIVE PRAYER

Gracious Father,

You have saved us with a wonderful and powerful salvation.

Your Word is living and active. Today, we have heard you speak,

So help us to not harden our hearts but to live it out.

Forgive our failures, renew our wills, awaken our joy, and transform our lives.

Make our faith living and active.

In the name of your Son and by your Spirit, Amen

Tuesday: 1 Peter 1:20-21

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

How does the authorship of the Bible give us confidence in the Bible?

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 2:11b-12

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

God helps us to understand his Word, how does this shape your prayers from non-christian friends and family?

Thursday: Hebrews 4:12

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

How does this verse change your expectations in reading God's Word?

Friday: Hebrews 1:1-2

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

How does this verse give us a framework to understand the whole of scripture?