

# **PICTURE THIS!**

## **The Big Picture of Our Faith in Pictures!**

*A study for all ages @ Gorrie Bible Fellowship!  
September – December 2016*

### **Week #9 – The Word of God**

#### **Picture It!**



#### **Caption It!**

*God is a relational God which means that He is a communicating God. God spoke the universe into existence and He has been speaking ever since. God's greatest words are His written Word (the Bible) and His living Word (Jesus).*

#### **Save It!**

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

## Picture It!

### 1. God is a God of Words!

- a. As we have seen, God is a relational God. He exists in a relationship of three in which the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (the three curved arrows), love honor and serve one another. Communion always involves healthy communication, and God is a communicating God!
- b. Creation itself came through the communication of God! *God said, "Let there be light," and there was light (Genesis 1:3)*. This is why the Creation picture is shown below the golden arrow and the scroll. Not only did God use words to speak Creation into existence, He used words to name the various parts of Creation. *God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night" (Genesis 1:5)*.
- c. And why did God create the universe? God created in order to communicate His glory. This is why the scroll is overlaid over the glory arrow. *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world (Psalm 19:1-4)*. God created, not out of personal need, but in order to share Himself with His Creation. In Creation God put the beauty of His glory on display for all to see. In Creation God speaks and makes Himself known.
- d. When God made people He communicated with them. He gave them instructions about His provision for them and about their responsibility to care for the world that He had made (Genesis 1:28-29). He did not leave Adam and Eve in the dark. He communicated clearly with them.
- e. When Adam and Eve sinned, they rebelled against the Word of God. They doubted the trustworthiness of God's Word and followed the lies of the Devil instead.
- f. Since the fall of humanity, God has spoken continuously about His plan of redemption. Remember that the trees and the river in the Creation picture speak of the flow of history from the garden to the heavenly city.

Throughout history, God has spoken in various ways (Hebrews 1:1). He has spoken through prophets and He has spoken through dreams. He has even spoken through the mouth of a donkey! (Numbers 22:28), but the two greatest Words from God are His Son and His Scriptures.

- g. Jesus is the living Word of God (John 1:1). He is the glory and truth of God in human flesh. He is the mind and character of God in living colour.
- h. The Bible is the written Word of God (represented in the picture by the scroll). In the Bible, God has once for all spoken an authoritative Word that reveals His glory, describes the plight of fallen humanity, announces the Good News of redemption and maps out the course of history through time and eternity.

## 2. The Bible is a Supernatural Book!

- a. Since the Bible is the Word of a supernatural God, it is a supernatural Word! Notice in the picture how the scroll comes out of the trinity symbol. God speaks purposefully, and His Word accomplishes His purposes! (Isaiah 55:11).
- b. The Bible was written through supernatural means. God wrote His Word through the pens and personalities of about 40 different authors. The Holy Spirit moved these authors to write exactly what God wanted written (2 Peter 1:21). They were like paintbrushes in God's hand writing truth in their unique contexts.
- c. The Bible is living and powerful! (Hebrews 4:12). Though other books may have beautiful language, inspiring stories or convincing arguments, God has made His Word alive. It has the power to convict sinners and transform saints. God's Word always changes people. We will either respond in obedience and be transformed or it will harden our hearts.
- d. The Bible is filled with prophecies that have come to pass since the time of their writing. We can be absolutely assured that Biblical prophecies about future events will also come to pass.
- e. For hundreds of years the Bible has been under attack from people who have questioned its trustworthiness or even attempted to eradicate every trace of it from the earth. But the Bible is the best-selling book of

all time! There are more copies of the Bible in the world than any other book that has been printed. The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other book that has ever been written. God's Word is indestructible!

- f. The Bible contains 66 books written by more than 40 authors in 3 different languages over a period of 1500 years. Despite this diversity of authorship, The Bible has one unified message; the Good News of redemption!

### 3. The Bible is a Reliable Book

- a. Because the Bible comes from God it is completely reliable. Archeology has confirmed that the Bible's descriptions of people, places and events in history have been true. As we have seen, history has shown that Biblical prophecies have come to pass precisely as promised.
- b. The Bible is timeless. Though it was written hundreds of years ago in very different cultures, it was written in such a way that its principles and concepts are applicable at any time and in any culture.
- c. We can trust that the Bible has not been corrupted or tampered with because of the thousands of ancient manuscripts that have been discovered with only small variations in letters and words. Some of the earliest New Testament manuscripts are within a generation of the original writing. The Dead Sea Scrolls have shown that even our Old Testament has not changed in well over 2000 years. The preservation of the Bible is far greater than any other ancient book.

### **Panorama!**

God is a relational God who speaks! Though humanity has sinned against Him, God is still communicating with people through His Word. In the Bible God has made Himself known, and revealed the Good News of His plan of redemption. He invites people back into the dance of His being.

## **Selfie!**

God has a message for me! He wants me to understand who He is and what He is like. He wants me to understand my own sinfulness and my need for a Savior. He wants me to know the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. He wants me to be transformed through obedience to His commands. He wants me to know the certainty of my future and the coming renewal of all things.

## **Instagram!**

God is real and He is a God of Words. Information is built into Creation; into the DNA in our cells. This is because there is a Creator who communicates. He spoke the universe into existence and we can know what God is like based on what He has made. God is still speaking today. He intends that we would know His plan for us and for the universe. He has made Himself and His plan known in His Word, the Bible.

## **Key Story!**

The Wise and Foolish Builders – Matthew 7:24-27

- God has given His Word as an instruction manual for life.
- Those who hear His Word and obey it build a solid life, like a house built on rock.
- Those who ignore His Word or disobey it are like a house built on sand.

## **Key Questions:**

1. What does the scroll represent in this week's picture? Why is it laid over a glory arrow?
2. Why does the scroll point from God toward the Creation picture? List as many reasons as you can think of!
3. Besides the Bible, what are some of the other ways that God speaks or has spoken in the past?

4. How can we be sure that the Bible is a supernatural book? How many pieces of evidence can you think of?
  
5. How can we be sure that the Bible is a reliable book?
  
6. Why is it important to understand that Jesus is the 'living Word of God?' What does that mean?
  
7. How does the living Word of God compliment the written Word of God and vice versa?
  
8. What should our attitude and response be to the word of God?
  
9. Why is it helpful to show an unbeliever that communication and information are built into God's Creation? Why is that a powerful truth?
  
10. How does the Bible transform a follower of Christ?