



Year In Search | Andrew Matrone | 1.3.21
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What is your favorite vacation you've ever been on?

SHARE

Happy New Year! We are so excited to see what God has in store for you and your Group this semester. To kick things off, Andrew talked to us about how to search God's Word. But before we dive in, take some time to catch up with your Group and hear about their Christmas by answering the following questions.

Did you take any time off this week? If so, what did you do?

What was the best conversation you had over Christmas break? Why was it so impactful?

Did you decide to set any New Year's Resolutions this year? If so, how are they going so far?

What are you most looking forward to this season together as a Group?

GROW

Read Psalm 119:105

Whether you've been following Jesus for decades or are just beginning your journey, learning to search God's Word is an essential part of the process. Learning to engage with and explore God's Word may be the best decision you make in 2021!

As Andrew reminded us this week, God's Word:

1. Guides You
2. Defends You
3. Transforms You

1. God's Word Guides You

Life is complicated. Along the way, we are going to have all sorts of questions. Fortunately, the Bible is a fantastic guide for us as we go. Here are some examples:

- Should I forgive? "Forgive as Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32)
- Can I get drunk? "Do not give into drunkenness" (Ephesians 5:18)
- Should I date someone who isn't a believer? "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- My wife is driving me crazy... "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church" (Ephesians 5:25)
- I have racial and political hate... "love your neighbor as you love yourself..." (Mark 12:31)

2. God's Word Defends You

As followers of Jesus, we have to remember that we have an enemy. Remember what Andrew reminded us this week, "Most battles we fight are not physical battles. Therefore, we can't fight them with physical weapons. Spiritual warfare needs spiritual weapons."

Lust, greed, pride, anxiety, doubt, and stress all have one thing in common; the battle usually starts in our mind. Memorizing Bible verses is one of the best ways we can be equipped to fight back!

Remember, when Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, the first thing he did was recite Scripture!

3. God's Word Transforms You

God's Word changes us! Every time we pick it up, we are encouraged, inspired, and transformed. That's why Paul pleads with us, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:2).

Do you believe the Bible does all three of those things? Why or why not?

Have you ever experienced the Bible guide you, defend you, or transform you? If so, tell the Group about it.

Which of those three is easiest for you to believe about the Bible? Which one is the most difficult for you to believe?

M O V E

Read Hebrews 4:8-13

Which verse stuck out to you the most in this passage? Why?

Why do you think the writer of Hebrews likens the Bible to the sword? What does that tell us about God's Word?

The Bible is powerful because it points us to the one who holds all the answers! As Andrew reminded us this week, the Bible is no ordinary book:

- The Bible is a collection of 66 Books.
- There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
- These books were written in different cities and countries, and yet they tell one congruent story.
- The Bible has now been translated into almost 3,500 different languages.
- It is made up of almost 800,000 words and would take you 70 hours to read.
- It was the first book ever printed.
- There have been nearly 7 Billion copies sold worldwide (the next highest is 900 million).
- 92% of Americans own at least one Bible.

Which of those facts about the Bible stuck out to you the most? Why?

What is one personal goal you have for reading the Bible this year? What is your plan for accomplishing that goal?

What is one goal your Group has together for reading the Bible this year? How can you keep each other accountable for getting there?

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying with and for each other. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men's and women's groups to share more freely.

T O G O

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

- Matthew 25:23