



Wield the Weapon | Ethan Matott | 7.26

Weekly Study

SHARE

Happy Sunday, Red Rocks family! Welcome to week two of our **Word of God** mini-series. This week, Pastor Ethan lays the foundation for why we can trust the Bible, how it is organized, and how we can confidently use it in our everyday lives.

Scripture describes the Word of God as the "**sword of the Spirit**" (Ephesians 6:17), reminding us that the Bible is more than just a book—it is our greatest weapon against the very real spiritual battle we face. Throughout this message, Ethan shows us how God's Word equips us to stand firm, recognize truth, and overcome the lies of the enemy. The more we know and apply Scripture, the more prepared we are to live faithfully and confidently as followers of Jesus.

- ☐ **What is your go-to verse when you need to hear the truth about who you are in Christ?**

GROW

Read Luke 24:44-45 & 1 Timothy 3:16-17

It can be easy to get lost in the story of the Bible. With 66 books, spanning thousands of years, it can sometimes feel overwhelming. But when we step back and understand the Bible for what it truly is, we begin to see its incredible beauty and purpose. The Bible is one unified story written by around 40 different authors over approximately 1,500 years across three continents. Despite being written by different people in different cultures and time periods, it all points to one person—Jesus. The Bible references itself more than 63,000 times, showing an incredible level of unity that no other collection of writings has. Throughout history, archaeology and historical discoveries have continued to support the reliability of Scripture.

When we read the Bible, it's easy to approach it by asking, "*What is God trying to tell me about*

myself?" While Scripture certainly speaks to our lives, its primary purpose is to reveal who Jesus is. As we read, a better question to ask is, *"What is this passage teaching me about Jesus?"* Because the more we understand who Jesus is, the more we understand who we are and how He is calling us to live. Scripture is ultimately His story, and every page points us back to Him.

- ☐ **What is the difference between reading the Bible for information and reading it for transformation?**

One of the reasons we often neglect God's Word is because we don't realize how desperately we need it. In **2 Timothy 3:16–17**, Paul reminds us that all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking, and training us in righteousness so that we may be fully equipped for every good work. God's Word doesn't just give us knowledge—it prepares us to faithfully follow Jesus. It shapes our hearts, strengthens our faith, and equips us for the spiritual battles we face every day. The more we know and trust God's Word, the more prepared we are to stand firm in truth and live out the calling God has placed on our lives.

- ☐ **How can you become more intentional about letting Scripture shape your decisions instead of simply increasing your knowledge?**
- ☐ **If the primary purpose of Scripture is to reveal Jesus, how might your Bible reading change if your first question became, "What does this passage teach me about Him?"**

MOVE

Read Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus has just been baptized, where God declares from heaven, "This is my beloved Son." Immediately after this incredible moment, the Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness. In this passage, we see Jesus do something incredibly important—He shows us how to fight spiritual battles with the word of God. Three different times, the devil tempts Jesus, and three different times Jesus responds with Scripture. Jesus demonstrates that when we know God's Word, we are able to recognize the enemy's lies and respond with truth.

The Bible makes it clear that we have a very real enemy. Yet many Christians either ignore his existence or become overly focused on him. Scripture calls us to neither extreme. Instead, we are told to resist the devil and stand firm in our faith. Jesus gives us the perfect example of how to do that. As 1 John 4:4 reminds us, "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." The enemy is not intimidated by our own strength, but he has already been defeated by Jesus.

The first temptation attacks Jesus at His point of greatest physical need—food. But even more than His hunger, Satan attacks Jesus' identity by saying, "If you are the Son of God..." Jesus' response reminds us that our deepest need isn't physical bread but the Word of God. Our identity and

satisfaction are found in the Father, not in our circumstances. When the devil attacks our identity we can stand firm in the truth about what God says about us in scripture.

- ☐ **In what ways does the enemy try to make us question our identity as children of God?**
- ☐ **How does knowing your identity is found in Christ help you resist temptation?**

In the second temptation, the devil twists Scripture challenging Jesus' faithfulness to God. Once again, Jesus answers with Scripture, showing us that faith isn't about demanding signs from God but trusting Him even when we don't have all the answers. We need to trust that His presence is enough.

- ☐ **Why is it sometimes easier to ask God to prove Himself than it is to simply trust Him?**
- ☐ **Have you ever found yourself questioning God's faithfulness during a difficult season?**
What helped you continue trusting Him?

Finally, the devil offers Jesus the kingdoms of the world without the suffering of the cross. Jesus refuses the shortcut and chooses obedience instead. He reminds us that God alone is worthy of our worship and that trusting God's plan is always better than taking the enemy's shortcut.

- ☐ **How can we recognize when an opportunity is leading us away from God's will instead of toward it?**
- ☐ **How can hiding God's Word in your heart prepare you to face temptation before it comes?**

P R A Y

Ask God to reveal Himself to you through His Word and to give you a deeper desire to spend time in Scripture. Pray for more of His presence in your daily life, greater trust in His plan, and confidence in His provision. As you read the Bible this week, ask the Holy Spirit to help you not only understand God's Word but also to live it out with faith and obedience.