



Sermon Discussion Guide

Aug. 9 & 10, 2025

"How Can We Make Sense of the Bible & Is It Reliable?"

[2 Timothy 3:14-16](#)

During this new series, we will explore how to make sense of the Bible and why it is still relevant today. Each week, we'll tackle one big question about the Bible, including why it matters and how you can find your place in God's story.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [hopeonline.tv](#). Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [2 Timothy 3:14-16](#) – "Paul's Charge to Timothy"

- What does this passage suggest about the role of trusted mentors in passing on faith?
- Why do you think Paul emphasizes both the truth and the trustworthiness of those who teach it?
- How does knowing Scripture is "God-breathed" change the way you view reading the Bible?
- How could you invest in helping others grow more fluent in Scripture in the coming months?

Read [Amos 8:11-12](#) – "A Vision of Ripe Fruit"

- In Amos' prophecy, what might it mean for people to experience a lack of hearing God's word?
- Why do you think God allows people to experience the consequences of ignoring his word?
- Pastor Mike contrasted people's response to 9/11 (seeking God's word) with the pandemic (seeking other sources first). What does that comparison reveal about where people place their trust?
- How could you help guide others back toward Scripture as their primary well of truth?

Read [Isaiah 55:10-11](#) – "Invitation to the Lord's Salvation"

- What images or feelings come to mind when you hear God compare his word to rain and snow that bring life? How does this metaphor help you understand the nature of God's word?
- How could you be more intentional this week about trusting God's word, even when you don't see immediate results?
- Pastor Mike contrasted "falling to pieces" with "living in joy and peace" based on whether we let God's word guide us. How does this passage help explain that difference? What does this reveal about the connection between God's promises and our everyday peace?
- Why is it important to let God's purposes, not our own, define how his word is applied?

Read [Romans 10:17](#) – "Salvation is for Everyone"

- When you think about faith "coming from hearing," what experiences or feelings have you had when listening to Scripture read or taught?
- Why do you think Paul emphasizes the Good News about Christ as the content that produces faith?
- Pastor Mike asked, "God is still speaking. Are we listening?" How does this verse challenge the idea that faith can grow without an ongoing relationship with God's word? What might keep you from truly listening when you encounter Scripture?
- Why is it important to model both hearing and responding to God's word?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week ...

- **Daily word intake.** Set aside a dedicated 15 minutes each day to read or listen to the Bible without multitasking. Use a printed Bible or an audio Bible app and note one phrase or idea that stands out to you each day.
- **Replace one input.** Identify one daily source of news, entertainment, or social media and swap that time for engaging with Scripture instead, even if it's just for one week. Notice any changes in your mindset or attitude.
- **Live out a verse.** From your daily reading this week, pick one verse that speaks directly to your life situation. Pray over it and intentionally put it into practice, whether in how you speak, make decisions, or respond to challenges, and reflect on the outcome at the end of the week.