

GOD'S WORD IS FOR YOU
AND FOR NOW

OPEN
YOUR
BIBLE

RAEHEL MYERS *and*
AMANDA BIBLE WILLIAMS

**SHE
READS
TRUTH**

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Raechel Myers loves God's Word. A reluctant writer but lover of story, she delights in the evidence of God's beauty, goodness, and truth in everyday life—just ask her kids. Co-founder and CEO of She Reads Truth, Raechel has a Bachelor's degree in Housing and Environmental Design and is not afraid to paint a whole house over a long weekend. She longs to cook artisanal meals, but loves Chinese takeout, wearing too much chambray, and kissing her husband. Raechel is fueled by double tall mochas and her strong passion to direct women to God and His Word. She lives south of Nashville, Tennessee, with her three favorite people and an old dog named Scout.



Amanda Bible Williams is crazy about words. True words are her favorite, one of many reasons she adores her role as Chief Content Officer of She Reads Truth. Amanda first met Jesus in an East Tennessee church pew as a little girl, and now she finds Him daily in the pages of God's Word and in a loud, old farmhouse east of Nashville where she lives with her husband and three young children. She has degrees in English and Psychology and nearly a Master's in Religion. Amanda enjoys dancing with her kids, reading herself to sleep, and explaining that her maiden name really is Bible.

WHY DO WE OPEN OUR BIBLES?

It's a fair question. After all, we've only just met you and already we're urging you to *Open Your Bible* in big, capital letters. But before you think us too bold (and maybe even a little bossy), can we give you a peek inside our heart for this study?

You see, we used to open our Bibles out of obligation. Perhaps you do too? *Now we open our Bibles because it feels like coming home.*

We used to open our Bibles out of fear. Maybe you know the feeling? Now we open our Bibles for a fresh breath of the truest freedom we've ever known.

We used to open our Bibles to find ourselves. Now we open our Bibles to find our God.

Hear the happy desperation in our voices when we admit to you: *We open our Bibles because we just can't not.*

We open our Bibles God's Word is living and active, given to us for our salvation and sanctification, for our comfort and joy. We open our Bibles because Jesus, the Living Word in the flesh, is there in its pages—because “God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might *live* through Him” (1 John 4:9).

We open our Bibles not just because we *feel* lost, but because without Him we truly *are* lost. We open our Bibles

because we need the good news of the gospel—not just on Sundays, but every day.

Every day we need the gospel and every day the gospel is true.

To quote Tim Keller, the true gospel is this: *“We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.”*¹

Friends, the gospel of Jesus Christ is the reason we open our Bibles. Jesus is the Living Word, revealed in the black and white truths of Scripture.

We are so glad you're here! We are humbled and thankful for the privilege of sitting down with you via the pages of this book (that will one day fade away) to point you to THE Book (that will endure forever!) and remind you of these glorious truths:

The Bible is for you and it is for now.

But it is not about you—it is about God! It is about His steadfast love for His people. It is about His sovereign plan, His grace, and His glory, and you are meant to read it.

No matter where you are, find Him when you open your Bible.

WEEK 1

OPEN YOUR BIBLE



“I just can’t open my Bible.”

They were only asking for prayer requests, but I was surrounded by people who loved me and it felt safe enough to just be honest. It had been four months since we buried our stillborn daughter, and just as many since my aching arms had reached for my Bible. My very wounded heart—which lived and breathed and clung to the Book like never before throughout the uncertainty of my pregnancy—felt betrayed, weak, and hopeless.

There I sat in Tara’s living room with a dozen other women, circled up for the first Bible study I’d attended since our Evie Grace was born. I really only came because I needed to get out of the house.

My soul was weary.

No one gasped at my words. No one troubleshoot. Instead of judgment, even instead of a “You’ve just got to do it!”, my very blonde and very quiet friend Allison opened the worn pages of the Bible in her lap and simply said, “That’s okay. Let me read it to you instead.”

Lifting her bookmark from its place, she began to read Psalm 62. “For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken...”

As she read on through the end of the chapter, these friends of mine gathered closer. When Allison finished, Kari began to read from her Bible, then Holly, then Danielle. Like I was a person starving, too weak to lift food to my own mouth, they spoon-fed Scripture while I sat and wept and listened to the Word that never stopped being alive or true, even when it remained unread and unopened.

What has kept you from opening your Bible?

Maybe your heart has been wounded like mine, and the very words that have the power to comfort and restore remind you instead of what you’ve lost.

Perhaps it’s not like that at all. Maybe you’re afraid of what you’ll find. *Will it be convicting? Will it be hard to understand? What if I open my Bible to find the truth is too hard to bear?*

It’s possible you haven’t opened your Bible lately—or ever—because it’s not important. You may believe it’s true and good for others, but it doesn’t seem necessary for you. Or perhaps you have the basics down and don’t feel a need to dig deeper.

Maybe it *is* important to you, but it's just not *urgent*. You think the Bible is definitely worth reading and would love to make some time to sit down and read it, but there is always something more urgent that needs to be done, so your Bible remains closed.

Maybe you feel downright disqualified or unequipped. You suspect the Bible isn't for *you*—it's for pastors and theologians, too difficult to navigate independently. You've tried to open it and read it on your own, but quickly found it was more complicated than you expected.

But here's the thing—

The Bible is for you, and it is for right now. It's for you if you've never read it, and it's for you if you have seventeen doctorates in theology. (Anyone?) It's for the moment you are so overcome with grief that your body forgets to breathe in and out on its own, and it's for the time you really don't have time to open its pages for yourself.

We do not have to be biblical scholars to read this Book. You, right where you are, do not have to wait for someone to take you by the hand to open the pages of Scripture. You can open your Bible just as you are.

Move forward in this study knowing you are not disqualified. No amount of knowledge or accomplishments makes you more or less able to meet God in His Word. **Nothing you are doing, have done, or will do renders you ineligible for the good news of the gospel.**

All the things you imagine you've done wrong when it comes to your "quiet time"? The lostness you feel when you consider opening The Book of All Books for the very first time? Let them go. Understand here and now that yes, this Book is holy and it is sacred and good. But this Book exists for moments just like this—the moment you lay it open and look for *Him*.

WELCOME!

Before every group time, take a moment to read the “Start Here” to prepare for the discussion.

As we begin, discuss the following questions with your group:

What drew you to this study?

What words would you use to describe your relationship with God’s Word?

How confident are you in studying God’s Word? Why?

Share with the group something you hope to learn from this study.

WATCH THE VIDEO:

To hear more from Raechel and Amanda, download the optional video bundle to view Week One at www.lifeway.com/openyourbible.

NOW, LET'S TALK:

Why haven't you opened your Bible?

Imagine an empty room, yourself in one corner and your Bible in the other. You long to connect with God's Word in a meaningful way! But as you pick up your foot to move forward, walls emerge from the floor, blocking you from your destination.

What are those walls? Are they physical, emotional, circumstantial, spiritual? Can you name them? What in your heart or life keeps you from getting closer?

Share your walls with the group. Do you have any walls in common?

What are they?

What happens if we don't open our Bibles?

**WHEN WE DON'T OPEN OUR BIBLES, WE MISS
OUT ON THE BENEFITS OF GOD'S WORD.**

Read the following verses from Psalm 119 together and discuss the specific benefits of reading Scripture.

PSALM 119:98

It gives _____.

PSALM 119:107

It gives _____.

PSALM 119:130

It gives _____.

PSALM 119:147

It gives _____.

PSALM 119:165

It gives _____.

**WHEN WE DON'T OPEN OUR BIBLES, WE MISS OUT ON
THE FULLNESS OF THE SHEPHERD'S PRESENCE.**

Read these verses from Psalm 23 together and discuss the effects of remaining in the Lord's presence.

PSALM 23:1

He gives _____.

PSALM 23:2-3A

He gives _____.

PSALM 23:3B

He gives _____.

PSALM 23:4

He gives _____.

PSALM 23:5

He gives _____.

PSALM 23:6

He pursues us in _____.

**WHEN WE DON'T OPEN OUR BIBLES,
IT DOES NOT CHANGE WHO GOD IS.**

Malachi 3:6 says, "For I am the LORD, I do not change" (NKJV).

God is immutable, unchangeable.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE AND READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES. AFTER EACH VERSE, IDENTIFY ONE UNCHANGING ATTRIBUTE OF GOD THAT WE ENCOUNTER IN THE PAGES OF SCRIPTURE.*

| ATTRIBUTES OF GOD | SCRIPTURE | TEXT |
|-------------------|---------------|--|
| | 1 Samuel 2:2 | There is no one holy like the LORD. |
| | Psalms 25:8 | The LORD is good and upright. |
| | Psalms 86:5 | For You, LORD, are kind and ready to forgive, rich in faithful love to all who call on You. |
| | Psalms 115:3 | Our God is in heaven and does whatever He pleases. |
| | Psalms 116: 5 | The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is compassionate. |
| | Psalms 145:17 | The LORD is righteous in all His ways and gracious in all His acts. |
| | Isaiah 55:8-9 | "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not My ways." This is the LORD's declaration. "For as heaven is higher than earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." |
| | Acts 17:27-28 | He did this so they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. For in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are also His offspring." |

| ATTRIBUTES OF GOD | SCRIPTURE | TEXT |
|-------------------|--------------|--|
| | Hebrews 4:13 | No creature is hidden from Him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account. |
| | Hebrews 13:8 | Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. |
| | James 1:17 | Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. |
| | 1 John 3:20 | For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. |
| | 1 John 4:8 | The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. |

OPEN YOUR BIBLE AND READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES ABOUT GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE. NOTICE THE DEFINITIVE WORDS HIGHLIGHTED BELOW.

ROMANS 5:8

But God **proves** His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!

ROMANS 8:38-39, ESV

For I am **sure** that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 JOHN 4:16, NIV

And so we **know** and **rely** on the love God has for us. God is love. What happens if we do open our Bibles?

Like Raechel's friends did for her, take turns reading the Scriptures below aloud to one another. Before you read each passage, look each other in the eye and say out loud, "This is for you and this is for now."

Will this be awkward? Yes! Will it be worth it? Absolutely! The Word of God is TRUE. It is living and active. What a privilege to speak God's Word to one another!

OPEN YOUR BIBLE AND READ THESE PASSAGES TO ONE ANOTHER.

PSALM 62:5-8

ISAIAH 53:5

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

2 PETER 3:8-9

FOR DEEPER STUDY,
ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT EACH PASSAGE:

- *How is this passage about God? What does it say about Him?*
- *How is this passage for you and for now?*

HAVE ONE PERSON IN YOUR GROUP PRAY THIS PRAYER ALOUD.

Jesus, we are hungry for Your Word, but we don't always know where to begin.

Will You help us?

Father, we come to You confessing our inadequacy.

We need Your grace.

Holy Spirit, be our comfort and our guide.

Draw us into the pages of Scripture and reveal Yourself to us there.

Give us hearts that desire to open our Bibles.

Amen.

*Even when you don't open your Bible,
God's love for you doesn't change.*

A photograph of an orange tree with several ripe oranges hanging from the branches. The oranges are bright orange and are surrounded by green leaves. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the tree and some other oranges.

*I can't make
the Bible come alive...
the Bible is already
alive. it makes
me come alive.*

R.C. SPROUL

DAY ONE

*THE BIBLE IS TRUE**“What is truth?”*

This is the question Pilate asks Jesus, bound-up and bloodied, as He stands trial outside the governor’s headquarters. It’s the question we’ve all asked at various times in our lives. Somehow, as hard as it can be to spot a lie, it’s even more difficult to discern what is true.

As Pilate meets with Jesus’ accusers on that Good Friday, truth seems to be the question of the day.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO JOHN 18:28-40 AND READ JOHN’S FULL ACCOUNT OF JESUS BEFORE PILATE. CIRCLE PILATE’S QUESTION IN VERSE 38.

When Pilate asks what charge they bring against Jesus, His accusers reason a twisted-up response: “If this man weren’t a criminal, we wouldn’t have handed Him over to you.”

So Pilate tells them, “Take Him yourselves and judge Him according to your law.”

But they can’t. Because their law won’t allow them to put Him to death. So Pilate relents to their demands and presses Jesus further. “Are You the King of the Jews?”

“My kingdom is not of this world,” Jesus replies.

“You are a king then?” Pilate asks.

“You say that I’m a king,” Jesus replies. “I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.”

Pilate’s response still echoes through the ages: “What is truth?” And with that, the Roman governor of Judea left it to the crowd to decide the fate of his prisoner.

We want to wag our fingers at Pilate for being blind to the Truth standing right in front of His face. How could he have missed the Word made flesh being led like a lamb to the slaughter on the doorstep of his own home?

Discerning the truth is sometimes harder than we expect. When was the last time you struggled to discern the truth? When have you wished you didn't recognize the truth because of the way it convicted you? I wonder if that's how Pilate felt.

Jesus knew the answer to Pilate's question before he asked it. God's Word is truth.

In the garden hours earlier, before His arrest, Jesus prayed to the Father for His disciples, "Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth" (John 17:17). Jesus knew full well what these four words—"Your word is truth"—meant. He knew what was coming next would be the making-true of centuries of Old Testament prophecies. Mankind was under a curse and in a debt of sin so deep their only payment could be death—His or theirs.

Not only did Jesus know the truth, He was prepared to give His life for it.

Friends, whatever we read in the rest of this study is meaningless if we don't believe the Bible is true. The Law given to Moses and fulfilled in Christ, the good news of the gospel, the promises upon which our hope is built—it is either all true or not true at all. Truth isn't about expediency and it's not about comfort. There aren't degrees of truth. Because the Bible is true, even the parts we don't understand are good news!

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ITSELF?

OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO EACH PASSAGE BELOW AND JOURNAL ABOUT WHAT THESE VERSES SAY ABOUT SCRIPTURE.

1 KINGS 8:56

PSALM 119:89

PSALM 119:151

PSALM 119:160

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

HEBREWS 1:1-2

1 PETER 1:25

2 PETER 1:16-21

Opening your Bible won't always be easy. But, by God's good grace, the more you open your Bible, the more sure you will become of its truth. Whether opening God's Word for the first time or five hundredth, let's stake our collective flag in the ground of Jesus' words in John 17:17: *Your word is truth.*

DAY TWO

THE BIBLE IS COMPLETE

I'm a word nerd through and through.

My college roommate and I used to proofread the church bulletin for our own amusement, sharing good-natured belly laughs over punctuation mishaps. I find as much joy in a good string of words as I do a twinkling string of Christmas lights. I google puzzling plurals for fun, and I've legitimately lost sleep over English language conundrums most people couldn't care less about. I can't help it—I'm passionate about words and the way we use them. Correct grammar ministers to my heart.

Words are one way God reveals Himself to us, but they aren't the only way.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE AND READ PSALM 19:1-6. LIST THE WAYS THE WORLD AROUND US PROCLAIMS GOD'S TRUTH. LOOK ESPECIALLY FOR THE ACTION VERBS AND DESCRIPTIVE WORDS AND PHRASES USED.

In His love and mercy, the infinite God of the universe freely reveals Himself to His creation *by* His creation. Theologians call this God's "general revelation." It's what we learn about the existence and majesty of God when we see the sun rise over the bay, notice the flight pattern of an endless string of migrating birds, or find a brightly-colored bloom where a green bud used to be.

Stunning as these revelatory sights are, they're not even the best part. God's gracious revelation of Himself continues in the words of Scripture and the person of Jesus Christ. The Bible is God's "special revelation" to us.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE AND READ PSALM 19:7-11. IDENTIFY THE CHARACTERISTICS AND RESULTS OF GOD'S WORD. IN YOUR BIBLE OR IN THE PASSAGE BELOW, CIRCLE THE CHARACTERISTICS AND UNDERLINE THE RESULTS.

PSALM 19:7-11

*7 The instruction of the LORD is perfect,
renewing one's life;
the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy,
making the inexperienced wise.*

*8 The precepts of the LORD are right,
making the heart glad;
the command of the LORD is radiant,
making the eyes light up.*

*9 The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are reliable
and altogether righteous.*

*10 They are more desirable than gold—
than an abundance of pure gold;
and sweeter than honey,
which comes from the honeycomb.*

*11 In addition, Your servant is warned by them;
there is great reward in keeping them.*

From the grandest story to the smallest sentence, Scripture says all God intends for it to say—not more, not less. We can trust it down to the letter.

The Word of God is about God and it is whole.

The Pharisees touted their strict adherence to Scripture. They also spent a lot of time accusing Jesus of the opposite, claiming He disrespected and even opposed Scripture. Take a look at what Jesus said during the Sermon on the Mount as He defended Himself against these claims:

*Don't assume that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.** For I assure you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all things are accomplished (Matt. 5:17-18, emphasis added).*

Even the most minute parts of the Law mattered to Jesus. That “smallest letter” He mentioned? At the time, it was the *iota* in the Greek alphabet and the *yod* in the Hebrew. The yod is about the size of our apostrophe—a speck on the page, yet a promise not forgotten by our great God! Jesus vowed that none of the Law, not even a yod, will go forgotten or unfulfilled. (That makes this Oxford comma-loving girl raise her praise hands high!)

If the Law were indeed a to-do list as the Pharisees believed—and as we are daily tempted to believe—then the checklist would never end. We couldn’t do it. But in Christ, every last item is checked off as done! When Jesus breathed “It is finished” from the cross, He meant it (John 19:30).

God’s Word is given to us complete, and it is completely fulfilled in the life and person of Jesus.

Friends, hear this sweet promise. The Holy Bible we open today is not lacking—not then, not now, not ever. It is not unfinished or ineffective, and there is nothing we can do to make it more complete. Scripture was purposefully created, divinely inspired, and given for us by God Himself. Everything we need to know about the God who formed us, who loves us, who pursues us and rescues us from the pit is found in the pages of His Book.

I love the matter-of-factness with which author and theologian Kevin DeYoung describes the fullness of God’s Word:

You do not need another special revelation from God outside the Bible. You can listen to the voice of God every day. Christ still speaks, because the Spirit has already spoken. If you want to hear from God, go to the book that records only what he has said. Immerse yourself in the word of God. You will not find anything more sure.¹

God’s Word is complete. It is complete not only because it has no missing parts, no inadvertently omitted truths, no unintended gaps, but because it has been accomplished to the letter—even the tiniest letter—by our Savior.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO PSALM 119:89. WRITE A SHORT PRAYER ASKING GOD TO GIVE YOU FAITH TO BELIEVE THE WORDS OF THIS VERSE, TO SEE AND RECEIVE GOD’S WORD AS TRUE AND COMPLETE.

DAY THREE

THE BIBLE IS LIVING AND ACTIVE

My grandma has the coolest morning ritual.

It begins with quiet—the kind of quiet she'll freely admit was much harder to come by when she was raising five boys. She opens her Bible and reads from it first thing. When she's finished, she presses back in her recliner, drapes a cloth over her face to prevent distractions, then proceeds to pray for each of her five sons, each of their wives, and all 17 of her grandchildren, their spouses, and their children. Each of us by name. Every morning.

I love this so much.

My grandma (her name is Marvolene!) has loved Jesus for three quarters of a century. She knows the Bible well, yet even at a glorious 80 years old, it is still her daily destination for fresh interaction with her Savior.

I don't see Grandma Marvolene very often. She and Grandpa live in Michigan and we're in Tennessee. But, I had the opportunity to make a trip to visit them recently and I'll never forget the sweetness of that time.

Grandma and I sat together in her living room while my husband and kids took a tractor ride in the yard with Grandpa. She didn't waste time. The moment she had the chance, she leaned in to tell me what the Lord had been teaching her in His Word.

Just a few days earlier the Lord had brought a line of Scripture to her mind: *"And as they went, they were cleansed."* She must have read it before, but she couldn't quite place it. After a little hunting, she found the words in Luke 17 (NKJV).

Smiling through tears, Grandma shared what new thing she was learning in the Word in this season. She wanted to read the story to me but her eyes were a little too teary to see, so I reached for her Bible and read it aloud for the both of us. Just me and my grandma, her Bible open in front of us, studying God's Word together.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO LUKE 17:11-19 AND READ THE STORY OF THE TEN LEPERS FOR YOURSELF. THE WORDS GRANDMA'S HEART REMEMBERED WERE IN VERSE 14.

Did Jesus heal the ten lepers immediately? What did he tell them to do?

When were the lepers healed?

My sweet grandma is facing the greatest medical battle of her life and these words have been an immense comfort to her. But, by remembering this passage at such a relatable time, do you think she took it as a promise that she will be healed like the lepers? No. She knows the promises of the Bible are even better than that. However, understanding Luke 17 as a historical account of one of Christ's miracles, she was reminded of two important truths about her Jesus:

1. JESUS TAKES NOTICE OF THE HURTING.

2. HE ASKS US TO OBEY IN FAITH, TRUSTING THAT HE IS SOVEREIGN OVER OUR BODIES.

We talked and wept and prayed as a family that afternoon. We thanked the Father for taking notice of Grandma Marvolene's pain. We asked the Holy Spirit to help us obey in faith as we trust our lives to our Maker. And as we said "goodbye until next time," I was buoyed in my understanding of how "living and active" God's Word truly is.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO HEBREWS 4:12 AND COPY THE FULL VERSE BELOW. CIRCLE THE TWO ADJECTIVES USED TO DESCRIBE GOD'S WORD.

For now let's focus on the truth in the first half of this verse. What does it mean for God's Word to be "living" and "active"?

GOD'S WORD IS LIVING.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO THE PASSAGES BELOW. MATTHEW HENRY SAYS, "SAINTS DIE, AND SINNERS DIE; BUT THE WORD OF GOD LIVES."² WRITE A STATEMENT ABOUT GOD'S WORD UNDER EACH REFERENCE.

ISAIAH 40:8

"The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever."

ZECHARIAH 1:5-6

"Where are your ancestors now? And do the prophets live forever? But didn't My words and My statutes that I commanded My servants the prophets overtake your ancestors? They repented and said: As the LORD of Hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so He has dealt with us."

2 TIMOTHY 2:9

I suffer for it to the point of being bound like a criminal, but God's message is not bound.

GOD'S WORD IS ACTIVE.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO DEUTERONOMY 32:46-47.

What does Moses say about God's words that came to the Israelites in the wilderness?

OPEN YOUR BIBLE AND READ ISAIAH 55:10-11. UNDERLINE THE PROMISES IN THE PASSAGE BELOW OR IN YOUR BIBLE. (HINT: IT IS ONE PROMISE, EXPRESSED THREE DIFFERENT WAYS.)

ISAIAH 55:10-11

*10 For just as rain and snow fall from heaven
and do not return there
without saturating the earth
and making it germinate and sprout,
and providing seed to sow
and food to eat,
11 so My word that comes from My mouth
will not return to Me empty,
but it will accomplish what I please
and will prosper in what I send it to do.*

God's Word does something, doesn't it? The prophet Isaiah tells us God's Word is like the rain and snow causing things to sprout. It brings forth life!

How has God's Word watered your life? How have you seen the Word of the Lord not return empty in your life or someone else's life?

What makes this possible? Why do you think Grandma Marvolene remembered the passage she did at the time she did?

Grandma Marvolene has been studying Scripture for 75 years. The Holy Spirit guides us too, even in our immaturity—especially in our immaturity!—to remember and understand the truths of Scripture. Jesus left us the Spirit as our guide to illuminate what He has already inspired!

OPEN YOUR BIBLE ONE LAST TIME (FOR NOW!) TO 1 JOHN 2:27 AND JOHN 14:26. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

Based on John's words in 1 John 2:27, is it possible for a person to sit down by herself and be taught the truth from God's Word?

According to John 14:26, what does Jesus promise the Holy Spirit will do?

Write a prayer of thanks to God for His living and active Word. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you read, illuminating what He has already inspired.

DAY FOUR

THE BIBLE IS ENOUGH

Sometimes I doubt the gospel is enough for me.

The rest of you, sure, but not me. It is a “too good to be true” situation and I’m the unlucky gal who falls outside redemption’s lines.

These are the lies the Enemy tells me—lies that can only be quieted by the resounding truth of God’s Word. Take these words from Romans 11:6 for example: “But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace” (ESV). **God’s Word is the only light bright enough to drown the darkness of my doubt.**

Even still, when I hear the words “The Bible is enough,” my cynicism kicks into high gear.

How can the Bible be enough when the brokenness of this world is so vast and the consequences so painful? Does saying “The Bible is enough” mean it is the solution to all our problems? Does it mean that, in light of eternity, our problems don’t exist or matter? Is the Bible the Sunday School answer to every earthly ache?

It’s easy to see how we who call ourselves believers can once again—and regularly—become doubters.

So what are we saying when we say the Bible is enough?

To say God’s Word is enough is not to say our need is not real or great. It is not to diminish the struggles of our circumstances or dismiss the validity of our pain. The opposite is true! **To say God’s Word is enough is to acknowledge our need as so great, our pain and problems so real, that only God’s Word and the Living Word—Jesus—can bring real redemption.**

Great! But what does that look like exactly?

To bring this concept to life, let’s head over to the Old Testament and read the story of God’s provision for His people as they wandered for decades in the wilderness.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE AND READ EXODUS 16:1-18.

Now, look back at verse 4, and jot down the answers to these questions:

Where did the bread come from?

How often were the people to gather it?

How much were they instructed to gather?

The bread that rained from heaven was exactly proportionate to the Israelites' individual and immediate needs. In the same way, God's Word is enough for you and for me—each and every time we read it. We are freed from the panic of opening our Bibles and wondering, *What if it isn't true? What if it isn't enough?* God's Word is so supremely sufficient that hoarding is not just unnecessary, it's silly!

The Bible is God's provision for us. It is enough today and it will be enough when we come back to gather more tomorrow. We can consume it without fear of diminishing God's goodness, using up His truth, squeezing out the last drop of His mercy. The famous 19th century preacher Charles Spurgeon may have said it best: "If Christ were only a cistern, we might soon exhaust his fullness, but who can drain a fountain?"³

God's Word is enough because the One who gives it is infinitely enough. He is the source of all truth, and He is inexhaustible.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO EXODUS 16 AGAIN. THIS TIME, READ VERSES 16-20.

Did the Israelites obey God's command to gather only the manna needed for the day?

Why do you think they struggled with this instruction?

The Israelites doubted that God's provision was truly enough for their survival. Have you ever experienced similar doubt when it comes to whether God's Word is truly enough for you? Why or why not?

Just after feeding the five thousand and walking on water, Jesus described Himself to His disciples this way:

JOHN 6:48-51

I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.

Jesus, the Living Word, looked His disciples in the eyes and said, *I am enough*. It was a bold claim, one that many of those following Him doubted. Verse 66 tells us some turned away right then and there, prompting Jesus to ask, "What about you? Are you going to walk away, too?" (John 6:67, my paraphrase).

I love Simon Peter's response to Jesus—a heaping helping of faith with a generous side of holy fear: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68, ESV).

Indeed, friends, where *would* we go? Only to God.

Only His Word can fill us up. Only His Word meets us at the precise intersection of our need and His provision. Like the bread that fell from the sky to feed God's people in the wilderness, we must receive and take in God's Word as our daily bread, our perfectly portioned manna for the day.

It is sufficient and true, it is for us and for now—and it is enough.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE AND READ ISAIAH 55:1-3.

Read it again, this time aloud, and hear the Lord's gracious invitation to you.

Write the first half of verse 3 below, noticing the urgency of the words.