

# The Good Book

## Reasons for the Bible

### Reading - Isaiah 55:8-13

<sup>8</sup> "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. <sup>9</sup> "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." <sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup> You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. <sup>13</sup> Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."

### Reading - 1 Timothy 4:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. <sup>13</sup> Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

### Reading - 2 Timothy 3:14-17

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

### A brief recap of mornings teaching

1. The bible is Gods strategy to show us who he is (Isaiah 55:11) - We can think of the parable of the sower (Mark 4:1-20) - his word goes out and some people grasp it, take it and believe, however we know that some never do take hold of it, they never believe.
2. The bible is food for our souls - Matthew 4:4 'Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
3. The bible has a message of hope - Isaiah 55:12 - it brings us joy and peace.

### Questions for discussion

Read the passage aloud - what strikes you from this reading? What things from the passage immediately come to mind about what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus?

Are there other reasons for the bible? Is there anything else you would want to add to the recap above?

Imagine you are explaining 2 Tim 3:16-17 to an unbeliever, what would you say? So were the biblical authors like a pen in God's hand, or like a scribe? What important biblical doctrine or doctrines can we get from these verses? What implication do they have for us?

How is God using the Scripture to teach, rebuke, correct or train you in your current circumstance?

**Things to pray for:**

Prayer points for church taken from our prayer diary;

- Vera - Vera will be training young people at the Bible Centre to run youth Bible reading groups in their own (mainly Orthodox) churches. 20 St Petersburg churches could be involved. Praise God that the Bishop has asked her to do this. Pray for all involved in this exciting move as personal Bible reading is not a normal practice in Orthodox churches.
- Seniors Ministry - For the next Saturday4Seniors event on Jan 25th and the new team members. For the new guests at S4S - often lonely and isolated - to find a warm welcome and a positive Christian witness. For the team at Hymns of Praise as they welcome and befriend the guests.
- New Wine - That our monthly Sunday celebrations will continue to attract people from around Northamptonshire. Wisdom for Steve in choosing speakers for next year's celebrations. For our network church leaders to be bold in welcoming the move of the Holy Spirit.