

The Life Challenge

Title: Submission to Scripture
Text: Hebrews 4:12-13
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Date: April 19, 2020



WARM-UP

Share about a time when you read the bible and God spoke to you, or caused something to jump off the page at you, in a way you had never experienced before.

DISCUSSION

Reflecting on your own experience:

- What is the greatest joy in reading the bible?
- What is the greatest challenge in reading the bible?
- Which parts of the bible do you gravitate towards, and why?
- Which parts of the bible do you tend to avoid, and why?

Read and reflect on Hebrews 4:12-13

- What jumps out at you about this passage?
- In what ways does this passage describe your experience of reading the bible?

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-19

- What do you think is meant by "correctly handling the word of truth" in verse 15?
- Have you ever experienced someone using a text from the bible in a way it was not meant to be used? Describe that experience.
- Why do you think that person used the bible in the way that they did?
- How can you be sure that THEY indeed misused the bible and that YOUR understanding of that passage is more accurate?

"There is no such thing as a neutral reading of the bible. Our experience, culture and preconceived notions always color our reading of it."

- Do you agree or disagree with that statement, and why?
- What suggestions do you have for ensuring that, as much as possible, we are hearing what God is trying to say to us in the bible and not imposing our own ideas onto it?