

## 4 Blocks Guide

*14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)*

### **Text: Textual Matters**

The Bible is a compilation of *sacred writings (v.15)* from many different human authors. Each passage was written at a specific time for specific people. For this reason, context is important.

Just like any other written work, it is important to look at the literary elements of whatever passage you are studying. The Bible has several different genres such as narrative, prophecy, poetry, proverbs, letters, etc. Knowing the genre shapes how you interpret the passage. Passages will also have themes that are consistent throughout the book. Authors will repeat words to add emphasis and key the reader to an idea. They will also use metaphors and symbolism to enhance understanding.

*All of Scripture is breathed out by God (v.16)*. Though there are many human authors, God is the ultimate Author. The Bible is one unified story with many parts. When engaging Scripture, we must understand that every individual passage is a part of God's bigger story which can be summarized as Creation, Fall, Rescue, Restoration.

### **Discussion:**

Summarize the Passage

Who wrote this book? Who is the intended audience? What is the historical setting?

What genre is this book?

Where in the Biblical timeline does this passage fall? What has happened leading up to this passage?

Are there any cultural elements that are different from our modern culture?

Are there any significant literary elements in the passage?

Are there any repeated words or phrases?

What book themes are in the passage? What biblical themes or references are in the passage?

### **Man: Man's Condition and Nature**

If Scripture is aimed for *teaching, reproof, correction, training, and to complete (v.16-17)*, then the implication is that we are broken and incomplete. If Scripture is purposed to *make us wise for salvation (v.15)*, then the implication is we need salvation. Every passage we read will show us the fallen nature of mankind and creation.

Discussion:

How do we see mankind's condition in this passage? What echoes of the Fall do we see? What in this passage makes our hearts say "This is not how it is supposed to be"? How do we see that we are incomplete?

Are there any sins, human limitations, suffering, evil, death, etc. in this passage?

Make it personal: How do we see this in our context? How does this play out in your life?

### **God: God's Nature and Redemption**

God is the ultimate author, and Scripture is his primary way of revealing himself to us. He is the hero, so every passage unveils his character to us. God is beyond our understanding and comprehension. He is an everlasting well and eternity is not long enough for us to learn all we can know about him, but God, in his grace, reveals Himself to us through his Word.

All of Scripture is intended *to make us wise for salvation through faith in Jesus (v.15)*. It shows us our need for salvation, and all Scripture shows us how we can have salvation through faith in Jesus. All of the Bible is one unified story that is flowing to, through, and from God's redemptive work through Jesus. For this reason, we cannot hope to fully understand a passage, unless we see how it points us to salvation through faith in Jesus.

**Discussion:**

What do we learn about God's character from this passage? What parts of God's nature are on display?

How does this passage show us salvation through faith in Jesus?

*Questions to help see how the passage points to Jesus:*

Does the passage explicitly mention Jesus' redeeming work?

How does this passage fit into the overarching story of Scripture? Creation, Fall, Rescue, Restoration

How can you trace God's revealed character to the cross?

What redemptive themes does this passage have that echo the cross?

### **Action: Grace Driven Life Change**

Scripture *teaches, reproveth, corrects, trains, and completes us (v.16-17)*. The truths seen in Scripture shape how we think, what we say, and what we do. It is transformative. God, through his Holy Spirit, shapes and conforms us to the image of Christ through his Word.

**Discussion:**

Are there any explicit commands we should obey?

Are there any examples we should follow?

If what the passage says is true of man/God, what are the logical actions that should follow?

How do the actions of the passage play out in your context?