



1. Do you believe the Bible is literally God's Word? Why or why not? Read 2 Timothy 3:16,17 and 2 Peter 1:19-21. What does the Bible claim about itself? Can a person actually prove that the Bible is God's Word? If a book were written by an all-knowing, all-powerful God, what would be its characteristics?
2. Read Hebrews 4:12. What does this verse say the word of God is and what does it do? Why are these characteristics so vital to us as believers?
3. Can God, since he is all powerful, do anything? What limits what he can do? What are the five things Pastor Rick said God cannot do?
4. What two images did Pastor Rick use to show what our response to the word of God should be? Read Hebrews 6:18-19. Why do we need an anchor for our soul in this life? Read Psalm 119:81. What should our hope come from? Honestly, what are you putting your hope in right now?
5. If your identity is unclear, what questions will you have? If your purpose in life is undefined, what questions will you have? If your future is uncertain, what questions will you have? Have you been asking yourself any of these questions lately? Where do we find the answers to these questions? How does answering these questions give us hope?
6. What did Pastor Rick say we need to do in order to be secure in our identity? What is the correct way to see ourselves? What are some things God says about us?
7. What did Pastor Rick say we need to do in order to define our purpose in life? What mission has God left us here to accomplish?
8. Challenge—As a group, read through the entire New Testament this summer. The You Version Bible app has a reading plan to do this.

Answers

1. *The Bible claims that the Holy Spirit directly inspired the writers what they should write so that God's words were communicated, it claims God as its source. Yes, you can prove that the Bible is God's word by showing how the Bible fulfills the four characteristics of a book that was written by an all-powerful, all-knowing God. A. It would be 100% accurate historically. What it says happened in the past had to have happened in the past. B. It would be 100% scientifically accurate. If it said anything about the universe that could be checked scientifically, it would have to be accurate. C. It would be 100% prophetically accurate. If it said anything would happen in the future, it would have to come true. D. It would have to be 100% internally accurate, it could never contradict itself.*
2. *Hebrews 4:12 says it is alive and powerful. It is able to separate and let us see the most minute detail of the truth and how we think and what our true intentions are. This is so important because we are self-delusional, we can convince ourselves that what we do and why we do it is good, when in actuality it is not. The Bible can reveal to us the truth about ourselves, it performs "heart" surgery.*
3. *No he cannot, he cannot do anything that is contrary to his own nature nor anything that goes against what he says in the Bible. The five things are: a. He cannot do evil; b. He cannot deny Himself; c. He cannot change; d. He cannot tolerate sin; and e. He cannot lie or contradict Himself.*
4. *He used the images of roots and an anchor. We need an anchor or we will be blown all over the place in our thinking and actions by everything the world throws at us. Our hope should come from the truth in God's word and the promises he gives us.*
5. *Identity—Who am I? What am I? Why am I like this? Purpose—Why am I here? What am I supposed to be doing? Future—What is going to happen to me? Am I going to be able to make it through my situation? We find the answers to these questions in God's Word. If we have answers to these questions, we have hope that everything that we are and do will be relevant and have meaning.*
6. *We must root our identity in what God says is true about us and how he views us. We do this by answering the questions: Who created me? What was he willing to pay for me? Who owns me?*
7. *We must adopt God's purposes for us as our own purposes for living. Everything we do should be to accomplish what God wants us to accomplish on earth. If we do this, we will die fulfilled, knowing that our lives made a difference for eternity in the lives of others. The greatest of these is to share the gospel with other people so that they can have the same thing we have, this is the mission God leaves us here for.*