

Part 4: Every Ship Has an Anchor

BIG IDEA

The Word of God becomes our anchor as we love it, live it, and allow it to lead us to true freedom.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

John 8:31–32 (NIV)* – *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are **really** my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

OPTIONAL VIDEO RESOURCE

- View on RightNow Media[†] - [Why Read the Bible?](#) (2:13 minutes)

ICEBREAKER

1. **If you were stranded out on a boat in the middle of a storm, what would you reach for first—rain jacket, really good company, good radio, lifejacket, smartphone charger, or snacks?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LOVING THE WORD

2. **What differentiates a “surface Christian” from a real disciple (fully committed follower) of Christ?**

We get an accurate picture of God from His Word, and that picture helps us grow in our love of the Word. Like any relationship, it begins with an attraction that encourages us to want to know the person more.

3. **Do you remember who you first understood God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to be? How has reading God’s Word expanded your understanding of each of the Persons of God?**

* Emphasis added.

[†] If you do not yet have a login for RightNow Media, please use this link to join under our Church of the Rock subscription: [Rightnow Media Login Request](#).

All Aboard the DiscipleSHIP – Week 4 Small Group Study

Psalm 119:9–11, 97–98, 102–104 (NIV)

⁹ *How can a young person stay on the path of purity?*

By living according to your word.

¹⁰ *I seek you with all my heart;*

do not let me stray from your commands.

¹¹ *I have hidden your word in my heart*

that I might not sin against you.

⁹⁷ *Oh, how I love your law!*

I meditate on it all day long.

⁹⁸ *Your commands are always with me*

and make me wiser than my enemies.

¹⁰² *I have not departed from your laws,*

for you yourself have taught me.

¹⁰³ *How sweet are your words to my taste,*

sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ *I gain understanding from your precepts;*

therefore I hate every wrong path.

4. What are the cues in the passages above that help us to see how we can also learn to love God's Word?

LIVING THE WORD

We often hear the phrase “my truth,” which implies that truth is subjective or customizable. Each of us indeed has unique experiences and perspectives, but there is an overarching truth which provides a stable anchor for our lives.

5. How do you discern between my truth/your truth/God's truth in a world where there is a lot of information but not a lot of wisdom?

We see Paul moving from “my truth” to “God's truth” in Acts 9:3–6 (NIV):

³ *As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.*

⁴ *He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”*

⁵ *“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.*

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. ⁶ “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

6. What did it take for Paul to let go of “his truth” in favour of God's truth, and what does it take for us?

7. Paul needed more than just an encounter with Jesus; He now needed to live out God’s Word. In [Acts 9:17-22](#), Ananias and the other disciples confirmed Paul’s experience, helped him understand that Jesus was the Son of God, prayed for his healing and led to be baptized. **In what ways does our community of believers help us to better understand what it means to live out God’s Word?**

THE WORD LEADS TO TRUE FREEDOM

8. **Living in freedom is not just “doing whatever we want.” Can you think of examples (both in the Bible and in our own lives) where doing “whatever we want” actually places us in bondage?**

9. **What are some biblical principles or “anchors” that give us freedom?**

ACTIVATION

Think about the storms you have been experiencing in your life during the pandemic. In what ways have you felt “tossed and lost” and in what ways has God’s Word been your anchor?

Spend time as a group praying for each other in the areas in which you feel “tossed and lost.”

THIS WEEK

Read [Psalm 119](#) and meditate on the stability God’s Word brings to your life.