



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

The Power of the Scriptures and the Purpose of Sermons

Preached by Daniel Grothe

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Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

Pastor Daniel preaches from 2 Timothy 3:14-17, focusing on Paul's declaration that "all Scripture is God-breathed." He traces the theme of God's breath through Genesis 2:7, Ezekiel 37, and Acts 2, showing that just as God breathed life into Adam, He continues to breathe life into His people through His Word. The sermon emphasizes that the Bible is not just an ancient text but a living, active source of spiritual life that equips believers for every good work in every season.

Pastor Daniel emphasized the importance of gathering as a church, arguing that the greatest concentration of God's presence is found among His gathered people. He challenges us to be people of the Word, both in private devotion and in public worship, and to be ready to "preach the word" in season and out of season, whether in the kitchen at midnight, in a hospital room, or in a classroom.

He closes with a call to return to the basics of reading Scripture and prayer, warning that neglecting the Word leads to spiritual shrinking rather than growth.

Key Passages

- 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- Genesis 2:7
- Ezekiel 37:4-5
- 2 Timothy 4:2

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for the gift of Your Word and the gift of community. As we open this discussion, we ask that You would breathe fresh life into each of us, just as You breathed life into Adam in the Garden. Open our hearts and minds to receive whatever You want to speak to us today. Set aside our distractions, our fears, and our preconceived ideas, and let Your Spirit lead this conversation. May we leave this time more rooted in Your Word and more committed to living it out. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What is one book, other than the Bible, that has significantly shaped the way you think or live, and why did it have such an impact on you?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.

1. Pastor Daniel described the Bible as 'God-breathed,' using the Greek word theopneustos. What does it mean to you personally that Scripture carries the very breath of God, and how does that change the way you approach reading it?
2. The sermon connected God's breath in Genesis 2:7, the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37, and the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. What do these three moments have in common, and what do they tell us about what God wants to do in our lives today?
3. Pastor Daniel shared a story about how reading Proverbs 13:20 as a teenager prompted him to distance himself from someone who later ended up in serious trouble. Was there ever a moment when Scripture seemed to speak directly into a specific situation in your life? What happened?
4. Pastor Daniel said that the greatest recurring concentration of God's presence is found among the gathered people of God. Do you agree? How have you experienced God differently in a corporate worship setting compared to your private devotional time?

5. Paul tells Timothy to 'preach the word, be instant in season and out of season.' Pastor Daniel applied this not just to pastors but to every believer, including parents, teachers, and friends. In what situations do you feel most called to share the Word, and what holds you back?
6. The sermon warned that neglecting Scripture causes us to 'shrink,' while staying in the Word causes us to 'grow.' Where do you feel like you are right now in that spectrum, and what is one honest obstacle that keeps you from spending more time in the Bible?
7. Pastor Daniel committed that the church would preach the whole counsel of Scripture, including the difficult and uncomfortable parts. Why is it important that a church not avoid the 'sticky pages' of the Bible? Have you ever been challenged or changed by a passage you initially found difficult or confusing?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

This week, commit to a specific, daily practice of opening the Bible, even if just for 5-10 minutes. Choose a single verse or short passage each day, read it slowly, and ask God to speak to you. If you are not sure where to start, try Psalm 23 or Proverbs 13. At the end of the week, reflect on whether you noticed a difference in your sense of peace, direction, or spiritual strength. Consider sharing what you discovered with someone in your group or a trusted friend.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before dismissing.

- All Scripture is God-breathed, meaning it carries the living breath of God and has the power to bring spiritual life, direction, and transformation.
- The gathered church is the place of the greatest recurring concentration of God's presence, making weekly corporate worship irreplaceable.
- Every believer is called to 'preach the word' in season and out of season, not just from a pulpit but in everyday moments.
- Neglecting Scripture leads to spiritual shrinking, while staying in the Word leads to growth, wisdom, and the ability to navigate life's difficult moments.
- The work of the Christian is not to manufacture spiritual results but to add our 'yes' and 'amen' to what God has already done and said through Jesus Christ and His Word.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Word and for the truth that every page of Scripture carries Your very breath. As we leave this discussion, we ask that You would make us people who return to the basics, who open the Book, who hide Your Word in our hearts, and who are ready to share it with the people You place

in our paths. For those in this group who feel distant or disqualified, remind them that You are saying, 'Welcome home.' Breathe fresh life into every dry and weary place in us. Make us grow, not shrink. And may the Word of Christ dwell richly in each of us this week. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.