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Section: Doctrine of the Word of God

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**26. How is the Bible to be read and heard?**

With joy, diligence, respect, carefulness, and prayer; so that we may accept sound doctrine with faith, store it in our hearts, and practice it in our lives. In it we find God’s revealed will; therefore we study it to know, trust, love, and obey God.

1. What is Sola Scriptura? How should it apply to my life?
2. Can you think of a time you can share where your submission to the authority of Scripture alone required you to repent of your own long held beliefs or ideas about what was right in your own eyes?
3. What are some areas of your life that are not strongly informed by scripture? i.e.”am I confident in my knowledge of what scripture teaches about how I do my job, raise my kids, spend my money…?’
4. Do you approach the Bible with joy? Why or why not? What can we do to increase our joy in how we spend time in God’s word?
5. Should I discipline myself to study God’s word even if I am not feeling motivated by joy? How can I promote joy in my pursuit of knowing God’s word?
6. Find all of the ways the following passages suggest diligence:

**Psalm 119:11**I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

**1 Peter 3:15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

**Psalm 1:1-2** Blessed is the man who...his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

1. What things in your life do you do diligently? What are some ways to practice diligence in your study of God’s word?
2. Read **Hebrews 5:12-13**. This passage suggests that sitting under sound teaching alone is not enough to produce spiritual maturity. What seems to be lacking in the cultivation of spiritual maturity in these believers?
3. Why is it so important for us to practice carefulness with the Bible? What is the result of carelessly receiving God’s word?
4. Give some examples of how Scripture has taught, rebuked, corrected, or trained you in righteousness?