Week 1: Know It

WHAT IS THE WORD?

- A. The Bible is alive, active, and is inspired by God. It was written by men under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because it was inspired by God, it is the ultimate source of truth!
 - I. Timothy 3:16-17 ESV: "All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
 - II. 2 Peter 1:21 ESV: "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

WHY SHOULD I READ THE WORD EVERY DAY?

- A. Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."
 - I. God's Word reveals which steps you should take in every area!
 - II. The Word is THE primary way God speaks to us. When we read the Word, we are able to identify which steps to take.
 - a. If you feel like God is silent, it's because your Bible is closed!
- B. Reading God's Word is like talking to someone new! The more time you spend reading the Word, the more you learn about who God is and how good He is.
 - I. Just like any sport you play, practice makes perfect! The more time you spend lifting weights, the more muscle you will build. When we take time daily to read God's Word, we are building up our "spiritual muscles" to hear what God is speaking to us.
- C. The Word is our weapon.
 - I. There is an enemy that is looking to come against us. Our weapon against him is to use the Word of God. When we read the Word of God out loud against the attacks of the enemy, it acts as our sword.



- A. Just like you build any habit, you start small!
 - I. Every day, set a goal to read just one chapter of Scripture a day.
 - II. As it gets easier to keep to that goal, you can start increasing the amount you read daily!
 - III. Our group will start together to make it easy!

LEADER: Take a few minutes to make sure everyone has access to the Bible app (YouVersion). If anyone doesn't, ask them to download and connect with each other.

Go over the verse of the day in the app in group. Show how it's like an Instagram story and relatable to them and follow the prompts.



ACTIVITY: MATCHING GAME

There are laminated sheets of paper cut out in different shapes in two different plastic bags. One bag has shapes that are red with a scripture on it. The other bag has the matching shape that's blue and has the title of that scripture on it (e.g. Romans 9:5). Leaders will put down the blue shapes. Students will have to match their red scripture with the blue shapes on the floor until all the shapes match.

TIPS FOR GETTING INTO THE WORD:

A. Find a time

- I. Maybe it's first thing in the morning, or after school, or before you go to bed.
- II. Leader: Share what your daily time with God looks like!
- B. Your relationship with God is personal and unique just like how He created you. Being in the Word is about growing a relationship with Him, not about checking off a box.
 - I. Take notes
- C. Pastor Ben always says note takers are history makers.
 - I. Whether you read your physical Bible or use the Bible app, make sure you highlight, take notes, and hear what God is revealing to you during your time with Him.
- D. What we put into our hearts, the Holy Spirit can bring out of us when we need it.
 - I. Prepare your heart.
 - II. Right before you start your reading, take a moment to pray. Turn on a worship song and spend a few minutes worshipping God for how good He is. Ask God to open up your eyes and heart to reveal something new to you.

PICK A BIBLE PLAN AS A GROUP

- A. Plan to start sometime that week. Pick a Bible plan to start together on the Bible app.
- B. Go over how to participate: Each day there is a new devo to read, scripture, and place to write your thoughts.
- C. Leader: Take the lead and demonstrate how to share what you learned and practice being vulnerable in the open-ended section to encourage students to participate.
- D. Continue doing the Bible plan for as long as you pick (tip: a 5-7-day plan is probably the best).

Week 3: Share It

GO OVER THE BIBLE PLAN

- A. Talk about what stood out to you from that week's Bible plan.
- B. Invite new students to join if it's still going on!
- C. Encourage the group to continue doing plans as a group, with others in ECHO, or with their friends at school.

WHY SHOULD WE SHARE THE WORD WITH OTHERS?

- A. Mark 16:15: "And then he told them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.""
 - I. When you HAVE good news; you want to share it!
 - II. Think about someone who announces their engagement or their commitment to a college. They have good news to share, and they tell everyone they know!
 - III. As Christians, we are called to share the Word with others—especially those far from God.

HOW DO WE SHARE THE WORD?

- A. It doesn't have to be weird or forceful.
- B. And it's not reserved for just pastors, you can share the Word with everyone you know!
 - I. When spending time on your phones, simply share ECHO messages or posts to be a witness to your followers.
 - II. You can share the verse of the day straight from the Bible app!

ACTIVITY

- A. Take this time to partner up and have the students share their testimony with their partner.
 - I. Have the students prepare one scripture to share in their testimony.
 - a. It says in scripture that they overcame the enemy by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony (Revelation 12:11).