



LOOP Leader Study Guide What If/Is - Week 5 Pastor Tim Chambers

Key idea: You've got to work the Word for the Word to work.

Key scriptures: John 1:1-5; Hebrews 4:12-13; James 19:19-21; Romans 10:17; Joshua 1:7; Joshua 1:8; James 1:22-25; James 2:17

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Tim began the message with a challenge question: What if we didn't just hear the Word and memorize the Word -- but what if we actually lived out the Word? (Take time to discuss this or leave it rhetorical for later discussion) God's Word has always been in existence long before it was written down in the Bible. **Read John 1:1-5.** Who is the Word? (Jesus) What are some of the things that John tells us Jesus brought to the world? (He created it. He brings life and eternal light)
2. The Word of God is not simply words on a page. It is alive. **Read Hebrews 4:12-13.** How do you feel when you hear this scripture telling us that nothing is hidden from God? That He is the one to whom we are accountable? (Perhaps afraid or ashamed. Maybe awed that Jesus loves even a flawed person like me)
3. Pastor Tim told us to put this statement in our notes. **You've got to work the Word for the Word to work.** Explain what this means to you. Ask yourself this question: How do you Work the Word? (discuss or leave rhetorical) **Read James 1:19-21.** How does being slow the anger help you "Work the Word" (Pastor Tim asked us when getting angry has ever gotten us a long lasting positive response?)
4. This passage in James (James 1:19-21) urges us to be quick to listen. Pastor Tim said that HEARING the word is the first step we need to Work the Word. React to this statement: **Hearing the Word of God will take you on a journey in which you might find yourself not knowing where you're headed, but it will never take you one step away from God.** (Include this point in your discussion: The Word of God is the force that charts the course)
5. If you believe in the Bible you should know that everything in it leads you closer to Christ. **Read Romans 10:17.** What are you hearing on a regular basis? We should be listening to the Word in order to grow our faith. Joshua followed Moses as leader of the Israelites. Tough act to follow. Hear what God told him: (**Read Joshua 1:7**) How does the Word plant the seed of obedience within us? Pastor Tim reminded us that if we are not consuming (listening to) the right stuff, the wrong stuff will consume us.

6. So hearing the Word is the first step toward an active faith. The next step is to SAY IT. **Read Joshua 1:8.** How does speaking the Word activate your faith? (saying it increases our confidence. An arsenal of scriptural affirmations brings encouragement. Ask members to share a verse from their list of helpful verses. Encourage those without a list to form one.) Pastor Tim said we need to become better at preaching the Word of God to ourselves. He also told us that an increased faith will decreased fear. Have you experienced this? Please share.
7. So we begin to Work the Word by HEARING IT and SAYING IT. But it's when we DO IT that our faith is demonstrated. **Read James 1:22-25 and James 2:17.** React to this statement: **It's not faith until you do it.** What would your life look like if we took this last step? What would our church look like? Our community? Our nation? What can you do to be a doer of the Word not just a hearer or a speaker of the Word? (encourage Loop members to avail themselves of serving opportunities. Have those who serve share how serving has enriched and energized their faith)

Talk to your LOOP about:

- **ISRAEL 2021**
 - There's still time to sign up to be a part of our Israel 2021 trip.
 - \$100 deposit is needed to reserve spot.
 - Visit our Weekly page for more info, <https://freshstart.church/weekly/>
- **NIGHT TO SHINE**
 - There are two opportunities this week to come and help with Night to Shine, even if you aren't signed up to be a part of the event that night.
 - Wednesday, February 5th from 6 to 9pm
 - Thursday, February 6th from 6 to 9pm