

GOD'S **LOVE** LETTER TO YOU



SHEPHERDCHURCH

WEEK 1: THE “STANDARD” OF THE BIBLE

WELCOME

What are you most excited about for the 2025 theme—*Falling in Love with the Bible*? How do you hope to grow spiritually this year?

WORSHIP

Open to **Psalm 119:97-104** and have each group member read a verse aloud. Then, have someone pray and thank God for His love and power.

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WORD

1. What are some cultural challenges to viewing the Bible as the standard for life and decision-making?

2. What do the words “God-breathed” in **2 Timothy 3:16** mean, and how does this affect our understanding of Scripture’s authority?

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3. In **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, Paul lists four uses of Scripture: teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. What is the distinction between each of these purposes and how does each prepare you?

4. Read **Deuteronomy 8:2-3**. According to verse 3, what was the purpose of the manna in the desert? How does the context of Deuteronomy 8:2-3—God humbling and testing Israel in the wilderness—compare to Jesus’ situation in the wilderness in **Matthew 4:4**?

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5. How can living by God’s Word, as seen in **Matthew 4:4**, shape the way you respond to challenges in the future?

6. What is the next step you need to take to cultivate a deeper love for God’s Word, like the psalmist expresses in **Psalms 119:97**?

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7. Imagine your community if everyone embraced the Bible as the ultimate standard—how would it change?

WITNESS

What practical steps can you take this week to invite someone to experience the Bible as God’s “love letter” to them?

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PERSONAL REFLECTION & DEEPER STUDY FOR THIS WEEK

- Choose one of the following to memorize: *Psalm 119:97; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; or Matthew 4:4.*
- Each day this week, read *Psalm 119:97-104* in one sitting (try reading it in a different Bible version every day).
- How does Jesus’ use of Scripture in *Matthew 4:1-11* illustrate the concepts Paul outlines in *2 Timothy 3:16-17*?
- Read *Exodus 16; Numbers 11; Joshua 5:12; Psalm 78:23-24; Deuteronomy 8:1-5*; and answer the following questions:
 - Why did God send manna?
 - What was manna?
 - What did manna look like?
 - What boundaries did God set around the collection and preparation of manna?
 - How were the Israelites to gather manna?
 - What was the purpose of manna?
 - How does manna compare to the Word of God?
 - What did Jesus say about manna in *John 6:49-51*?