BIBLE STUDY

How God Speaks to Us

The Nature of Scripture



God communicated with real people in real language — so we can understand His message today.

THE MAIN IDEA

God didn’t leave us to guess

He communicated with real people in real language — which means we can actually understand His message today.



Warm-Up

The Art of Miscommunication



The Journey

How God’s Message Reached Us



Scripture Dive

What Does “Inspired” Mean?



Wrap-Up

Discussion & Weekly Challenge

1 · WARM-UP ·

The Art of Miscommunication

Quick Word Game: words that change meaning depending on who says them or where you are

“Shoot-out”

Hockey tiebreaker vs. Wild West gunfight

“Run”

Going for a jog, running a dishwasher, running for council

“Cleave”

To stick close together vs. to split apart with an axe

DISCUSS

“Have you ever sent a text message that was completely misunderstood because someone couldn’t hear your tone or context? What happened?”

THE TAKEAWAY

Words carry meaning only when sender and receiver are on the same page. God chose human language, context, and history.

The Bible's journey, as a conversation



STAGE 1

God Conceives & Reveals

God didn't stay silent; He initiated contact.



STAGE 2

Human Hands Record

Sometimes God dictated directly (Ten Commandments, Exodus 20; letters to the churches, Revelation). Other times He guided real people writing from their own experiences, personalities, and research (Luke 1:1–4).



STAGE 3

Preservation & Translation

Ancient copies were carried forward, translated into our language, and landed on our phones and kitchen tables.

DISCUSS

"Does it surprise or comfort you to know God used real human personalities and styles to write the Bible, rather than dropping a magic book from the sky?"

3 · SCRIPTURE DIVE ·

What does “inspired” actually mean?

2 Peter 1:20–21

“Carried along by the Holy Spirit”

QUESTION

“Think of a sailboat being carried by the wind. The captain is steering but the wind is the only way to move. How does that help picture how biblical authors wrote?”

1 Thess. 2:13 & 2 Tim. 3:16–17

Scripture is “God-breathed”

QUESTION

“When you hear that phrase, what does it say about God’s personal involvement in these words?”

Matthew 22:29–32

Jesus and the Sadducees

QUESTION

“Jesus built an entire argument on the present-tense verb “am.” What does His confidence in single words tell us about how seriously we can read Scripture?”

3 · SCRIPTURE DIVE · MATTHEW 22:29–32

One small word, a whole argument

Jesus answers the Sadducees about the resurrection using Exodus 3:6:

“I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob”

NOT “I WAS”

The present-tense verb “am” carries the whole point.

SO WHAT?

Jesus’ confidence in single words shows how seriously we can take Scripture.

Group discussion

REFLECT

Encouraging others

“A lot of people feel intimidated by the Bible and think, ‘I’m not a scholar, so I won’t understand it.’ Based on what we discussed tonight, how would you encourage someone feeling that way?”

REFLECT

Reading in context

“Since context and words matter, what is one habit we can adopt when reading on our own so we don’t take verses out of context?”

This week and closing

Personal challenge for the week

Pick one chapter from the Gospels (e.g., Mark 1 or Luke 15). Read it slowly, noticing **who is speaking, who they are speaking to,** and the overall setting — before asking, "What does this mean for me?"

Thank God for choosing to speak in ways we can know, read, and understand — and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your hearts and minds as you study His Word together.