

Rock Us: Hope in Jesus - The Bible: God's Book of Hope (1/16/19)

This coming Monday, you have a holiday right? Yes, MLK Day. But why does he have a holiday? Who is this guy anyway? Well, you learned about MLK from books, videos, movies, school lessons, etc. Through all these you got to find out about his life story, his character, his dreams, his heart for people, goals & accomplishments, and his faith in Jesus Christ (as an important FYI: MLK's full title and name was "the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."). Through this study, we also begin to get to know & understand MLK in some margin, we begin to trust in his words & his teachings. We esteem him now so much that he gets his own holiday!

Now last week we talked about how Jesus is our hope in all the seemingly hopeless "Death Star" situations of life. And just like we learned about the great man MLK from books, we learn about the God-man who inspired MLK, Jesus Christ, in a book called the Holy Bible (a.k.a. God's Word). But since the beginning, the enemy (Evil, Satan) have been questioning God's Word. It happened with the serpent in the Garden of Eden. Because of humanity's sin, we've been expelled from the paradise of the Garden of Eden. The devil has been deceiving humanity ever since and as a result of Adam's fall, we now have sin, death & darkness in this world. But God had one main mission: to restore our relationship with Him & bring us back to The Garden. In essence, God's Word (The Holy Bible) is that story of God's plan to bring hope, peace, restoration & new/eternal life back to humanity. Here's the basic story of the Bible in a short video form: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/the-messiah/>

God's Word is an incredible Book of Hope, Healing & Restoration. And God's Word & power are still changing lives today.

***** At this point, we will have the testimony of one of the Teen Challenge men *****

God's love, power, grace & forgiveness are transforming this man who stands before you. And he is learning about God, growing in God, & trusting in God more and more in a major part because he (an all these men) are immersing themselves in the study of the Bible. Here at the Journey love the Bible too & trust in it as God's infallible word. God's word has power: With His word, God brought the universe into existence ("Let there be light" . Through God's Word, Jesus Christ calmed a fierce storm (**Mk 4:39** "Peace! Be still!") healed sick people & drove out demons (**Lk 9:42b** *But Jesus rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father.*) With God's Word, Jesus even raised the dead & commanded them to arise (**Jn 11:43b** *...Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"*)

God's Word has power! And the source to study His Word is The Holy Bible: a totally unique, totally transformative book unlike any other book ever written. It's God's Word in the Holy Bible have been bring comfort, hope & life-change for centuries. So why is that the case? Because, it's words aren't from a human source, they have been inspired by God Himself. The Bible is God's power, truth, wisdom, & hope in a very long love letter written to you!

And when we study God's Word, we can begin to know God, His character, His promises, His love, and His Hope. As we get to know Him more & more through study, we trust Him more & more. **Ps 119:114** says [*Lord God*] *You are my refuge and my shield; Your word is my source of hope.* **Jn 17:17a** [*Father God*] *Your word is the truth.* I just studied Psalm 25 today & it really gets this point of knowing God & trusting Him across. The God's Word in Psalm 25 is particularly inspiring. I pray that you place your hope in God Almighty alone, that you take God seriously, that you study His Word & get to know & revere Him (like you did w/MLK). You'll be eternally satisfied if you do!

BIBLE VERSES

2Tim 3:16 *The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right.*

Ps 119:114 says [*Lord God*] *You are my refuge and my shield; Your word is my source of hope.*

Jn 17:17a [*Father God*] *Your word is the truth.*

Col 3:16 (TLB) *Remember what Christ taught, and let His words enrich your lives and make you wise; teach them to each other and sing them out in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing to the Lord with thankful hearts.*

Jer 15:16 *When I discovered Your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear Your name, O LORD God of Heaven's Armies.*

Ps 25:1-4 *O LORD, I give my life to You. I trust in You, my God! Do not let me be disgraced, or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat.*

No one who trusts in You will ever be disgraced, but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others. Show me the right path, O LORD; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by Your truth and teach me, for You are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in You.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We learn a lot about God through His Word, the Holy Bible. What did you learn about God from the Bible-based video tonight?
2. Read 2Tim 3:16. What did you think about the Teen Challenge testimony tonight. How is God using the Bible to transform his life?
3. Read Ps 119:114 & Jn 17:17a. How has God's Word personally given you hope & transformed your life?
4. Read Col 3:16. How are you doing at studying, remembering & embodying God's Word in your life? Is His Word a priority for you?
5. Read Jer 15:16. If you have trouble with getting into God's Word (the Bible) regularly, you are really missing out. But that can change if you want it. Set apart a time each day to study His Word in whatever form works for you. Let's go over the [Bible Resource Cards](#) & see what can work for you. [*Discuss the resource the cards & your sources/techniques for studying God's Word*].
6. Let's read & pray God's Word in Ps 25 above. Pray that God's Word comes alive, goes deep into our hearts & gives us eternal hope!