

*“...we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords.”*

## 1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Lord, speak to us

**that we may hear your word.**

Move among us

**that we may behold your glory.**

Receive our prayers

**that we may learn to trust you.**

Amen.



## 2. Tell Out my Soul

### 3. Ephesians 1

### 4. Talk 1: The Gift of the Word

**Opening Question:** You are out with friends tucking into some of the fine steak provided at an unnamed restaurant conveniently located on the A23. Suddenly, one of your friends breaks from their chips, turns to you, and asks: “so... the Bible... what’s that all about then? What is it and why should I read it?” How would you answer that question?

## 5. Time for Reflection: The Perfect Wisdom of our God

## 6. Discussion Time

### 1 Samuel 3:21

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*The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.*

Qu: Given what we have reflected on, how would you answer your friends question, if asked again?

Qu: If the Bible is about revealing God’s glory, how should this shape our prayers as we approach the Bible?

## Read through this passage from Mark and then consider the following questions

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### Mark 7:5-13

<sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, ‘Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?’ <sup>6</sup>He replied, ‘Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>7</sup> They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.” <sup>8</sup>You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.’ <sup>9</sup>And he continued, ‘You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! <sup>10</sup>For Moses said, “Honour your father and mother,” and, “Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be

put to death.” <sup>11</sup>But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God) – <sup>12</sup>then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. <sup>13</sup>Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.’

In this passage we are thinking about “Words of God” vs “Words about God”.

Qu: In this passage, what does Jesus say the Words of God tell us about honouring our Mother and Father? Whereas, what do the words “about God” (those the Pharisees upheld) say people can do?

Qu: What does Jesus’ attitude reveal about how we should treat Words of God?

Qu: Where might we read words about God? What important thing does this passage imply we should do?

Qu: Even though it was written by Moses, does Jesus think the Old Testament is words of God, or words about God? Why is this encouraging for us?

## **7. Time of prayer**

## **8. Your word is a lamp unto my feet**

## **9. Final Prayer**

Glory to God,

**whose power, at work among us,**

**can do infinitely more**

**than all we can ask or conceive;**

**to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **10. Further Reading**

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If you’re interested in reading more on the Word of God, I recommend the following:

- **Confident: Why we can trust the Bible** (Strange & Ovey, IVP, 151 pages). A great little book on what it means for God to speak to us
- **A Peculiar Glory: How the Christian Scriptures reveal their complete truthfulness** (John Piper, IVP 286 pages). A wonderful book about how the Bible reveals the glory of God in Jesus Christ and can change our life.
- **The Doctrine of the Word of God** (John Frame, P&R Publishing, 640 pages). A reference book really, but a wonderful overview of the Word of God.

## **11. For reflection at home:**

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Maybe take one of these passages each day and give thanks to God for what it reveals about his purposes, character and nature.

10/3 Ephesians 1:3-6 11/3 Isaiah 40:6-17 12/3 Revelation 21:1-4 13/3 Psalm 139 14/3 Psalm 102:25-28 15/3 Revelation 4:11 16/3 1 John 4:7-12