

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

Welcome: *Icebreaker – If you could sit in the front row seat of one speech throughout all of history, which one would you choose to attend and why?*

Study Context: This week’s guide revolves around the preaching of the “word”. While there are many Greek words that exist for the written word (*graphe*), or the spoken word (*rema*), the Greek word in our 2 Timothy 4 text is *logos* which has deep philosophical considerations. Students of the Bible have pointed to the prologue in John 1 to determine a definition for the divine *logos*. Here is a video from the Bible Project that summarizes the key points of John 1 which describe the *logos* in the flesh as the point of origin from which all things flow!



What’s Going on This Week

This week, Pastor Danny Strange brought us into the sixth week of our series titled *A Church that Pleases God*. Pastor Danny directed our attention to *2 Timothy 4:1-5* to suggest that one of the main reasons we **gather** is to preach the word. Pastor Danny explains that when the church preaches the word well, it is the divine *logos* that is shared; meaning that you will hear the church preach Jesus himself, preach his gospel, and preach the scriptures. As you read this study guide, pay close attention to the way you receive the preaching of the *logos* at church knowing that the word is supposed to transform your worldview and not conform to it.

“We’ve been preaching the Bible every Sunday for 2,000 years, but it feels like something is changing. It feels like people aren’t listening anymore. This Pastor who used to step into the pulpit “as one who speaks the very words of God” now addresses the crowd as “one without authority.” From there, a divide was created: the Ted Talk preachers and the dogmatic authority figures. Let’s hit the reset button. What is the responsibility of the Pastor in communicating the Scriptures and what is the responsibility of the people in receiving it.” – Fred Craddock *As One Without Authority*



GROUP MEETING (60 – 90 minutes)

Worship (10 – 15 minutes)

Take time with your group and prepare your hearts as you enter into the presence of God for this meeting.

Option 1: Worship Music Have someone share their favorite song. You can find it online, play it, and even sing along with your group! Have them explain why the lyrics have impacted them!	Option 2: Rehearse the Gospel The Gospel is not just something for the point of salvation, it is something we need to remember every day! Ask one of your group members to define the gospel and share its implications.	Option 3: Transformed Worldview Romans 12:2 Before your group meets, spend some time meditating on the different ways the Word of God is currently challenging your worldview. Bring this up in your discussion.
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Word #1: Reflect on the Teaching of the Word in the Church (15 – 25 minutes)

Primary Texts: 1 Timothy 4:1-5; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; 1 Peter 4:11 – In these passages, we see the commands to “preach the word” in season and out of season! In this context, we are defining “word” as (1) preaching about Jesus himself [see Jn. 1:14, Col. 1:15-20], (2) preaching the message of the gospel [see 1 Cor. 2:1-2], and (3) preaching the scriptures [see 2 Tim. 3:16]. **What would you say is your experience with hearing the preaching of the word in the Sunday gathering / in church ministry events? In your church experience, is there a specific sermon that stands out to you in particular...how would you say God revealed Himself to you in that experience (think reprove, rebuke, and encourage)?**

Host Tip: This question is intentionally open-ended to see where everyone is at in terms of how they feel the word is being preached. Be open to opinions and ask curious questions to dive deeper into whether or not they felt reproved, rebuked, and encouraged or if they enjoyed it because it “tickled their ears.”

Word #2: Become an Active Recipient of the Word (15 – 25 minutes)

Primary Texts: Acts 2:14-41 / Review 2 Timothy 4:3-4 – The Acts passage highlights the very first gospel presentation in the early church while the 2 Timothy passage mentions that as recipients of this preaching of the word, we need to be aware of our own desires of the flesh. These desires are commonly expressed in our need to have our “ears itched” which leads to a pull towards teaching that matches our politics, addresses our specific theological concerns, aligns with the cultural worldview of the day, and won’t address our sin and personal idols. Therefore, we are challenged to (a) devote ourselves to the teaching of a local church community, (2) come to church proactively prepared to learn, and (3) come to church prepared to hear from God. **Which of these challenges stands out to you as you think about being a healthy recipient of the preaching of the word in our local church context? How might you be able to continue participating well as a recipient of the local preaching throughout the week and in your Life Group moving forward?**

Host Tip: There are 3 specific challenges that were given to us as a church. Allow yourselves to discuss these and then continue to brainstorm new methods of participation in the gospel message moving forward.



Witness (20 – 25 minutes)

- Pray for the Unfolding Events in the [Russia – Ukrainian crisis](#).
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to inspire our teaching team to “preach the word”.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would challenge us to become active recipients of the word.
- Pray for any individual prayer request that comes up in your group.
- **Pray for the entire group and how they may be able to participate in future group meetings.**
- **Pray for an interaction with someone who you can invite into your next group meeting!**
- **Pray for God’s hand in the multiplication and revival of your group!**

Stay up to date with our Prayer Ministry by signing up to be an intercessor online at 3Crosses.org/pray/!

Throughout the Week

- **Prepare for Next Week: GIVING - Primary Texts: Genesis 4:1-4; Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 6:21**— In the *gather* portion of our series, we will talk about how giving is an important foundation of the Sunday gathering. Be prepared by looking at all of the ways Jesus addresses money in the scriptures!
- **Follow up between group members:** Have each member of the group pick one other group member to follow up with about how they are growing in their faith as they learn to keep in step with the Holy Spirit
- **Join relief efforts locally and around the world:** Looking to contribute to what is going on both locally and around the world? Visit our website and volunteer in our [neighborhood resource center](#) or help sponsor an [indigenous missionary](#)!
- **Life Groups 2022:** For more information about joining a group, hosting a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org or Carmela at carmela@3crosses.org