

# Your Coronavirus Survival Guide - March 29th - Solo on Sola Scriptura - Troy Knight

## TALK IT OVER

### Key Scriptures from the Message:

2 Timothy 3:16-17  
Psalms 119:11  
Matthew 24:35  
1 Timothy 4:8-10

### Start reading

#### 2 Timothy 3:16 NLT

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

#### Psalms 119:11

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

#### Matthew 24:35 NLT

Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

#### 1 Timothy 4:8-10 NLT

Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it. This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers.

### Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Do you feel the same way as Troy and Clay when it comes to getting your money's worth at an "all you can eat" buffet? Share your thoughts on this.
- Have you ever approached the Bible like a buffet?

### Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does the phrase "all scripture is inspired by God" mean to you? What does the Bible equip us to do? How does it equip us to do it?
- Why is it so important for a Christian to read and think about (meditate on) the Bible every day?
- Read 1 Timothy 4:8-10. Troy stated that physical training is good but Godliness is better and it takes discipline and hard work. Do you have a tough time reading the Bible each day? What makes it difficult for you? What would make it easier and possible for you to do? How can you make that happen?
- What did Troy say is the primary goal of daily Bible reading?

### Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- How do you think using scripture as a guide is helpful in your daily life? Can you share a time when God used his word to keep you from sin or guide you in some decision?
- Share about a time when God's Word encouraged you. How did this impact you and your faith?
- What is the biggest revelation you have ever gotten when reading the Bible?
- Why is being in the Bible every day important, but especially during times of crisis in our world?
- Does the Bible intimidate you? If yes, do you have a mentor in the faith to whom you can go for help? If you don't, talk with your Small Group leader about a next step.

### Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- If you already read your Bible daily, are there ways you can improve your time? If you aren't reading your Bible daily, get a plan in place. There are great apps out there for Bible reading and devotionals. The YouVersion app is one and also Our Daily Bread has an app for your phone.

### Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Father, thank You for your Word that it is not just something that we read, but that it is something we can apply to our daily lives. Help us to develop a deeper passion for reading your word and to apply it to our lives. Amen.

### Start digging. For further study.

- Read the article on the back and discuss it.

## Question: "Why should we read the Bible / study the Bible?"

Answer: We should read and study the Bible because it is God's Word to us. The Bible is literally "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). In other words, it is God's very words to us. There are so many questions that philosophers have asked that God answers for us in Scripture. What is the purpose to life? Where did I come from? Is there life after death? How do I get to heaven? Why is the world full of evil? Why do I struggle to do good? In addition to these "big" questions, the Bible gives much practical advice in areas such as: What do I look for in a mate? How can I have a successful marriage? How can I be a good friend? How can I be a good parent? What is success and how do I achieve it? How can I change? What really matters in life? How can I live so that I do not look back with regret? How can I handle the unfair circumstances and bad events of life victoriously?

We should read and study the Bible because it is totally reliable and without error. The Bible is unique among so-called "holy" books in that it does not merely give moral teaching and say, "Trust me." Rather, we have the ability to test it by checking the hundreds of detailed prophecies that it makes, by checking the historical accounts it records, and by checking the scientific facts it relates. Those who say the Bible has errors have their ears closed to the truth. Jesus once asked which is easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven you," or "Rise, take up your bed and walk." Then He proved He had the ability to forgive sins (something we cannot see with our eyes) by healing the paralytic (something those around Him could test with their eyes). Similarly, we are given assurance that God's Word is true when it discusses spiritual areas that we cannot test with our senses by showing itself true in those areas that we can test, such as historical accuracy, scientific accuracy, and prophetic accuracy.

We should read and study the Bible because God does not change and because mankind's nature does not change; it is as relevant for us as it was when it was written. While technology changes, mankind's nature and desires do not change. We find, as we read the pages of biblical history, that whether we are talking about one-on-one relationships or societies, "there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). And while mankind as a whole continues to seek love and satisfaction in all of the wrong places, God "our good and gracious Creator" tells us what will bring us lasting joy. His revealed Word, the Bible, is so important that Jesus said of it, "Man does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). In other words, if we want to live life to the fullest, as God intended, we must listen to and heed God's written Word.

We should read and study the Bible because there is so much false teaching. The Bible gives us the measuring stick by which we can distinguish truth from error. It tells us what God is like. To have a wrong impression of God is to worship an idol or false god. We are worshiping something that He is not. The Bible tells us how one truly gets to heaven, and it is not by being good or by being baptized or by anything else we do (John 14:6; Ephesians 2:1-10; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10-18, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9-13). Along this line, God's Word shows us just how much God loves us (Romans 5:6-8; John 3:16). And it is in learning this that we are drawn to love Him in return (1 John 4:19).

The Bible equips us to serve God (2 Timothy 3:17; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12). It helps us know how to be saved from our sin and its ultimate consequence (2 Timothy 3:15). Meditating on God's Word and obeying its teachings will bring success in life (Joshua 1:8; James 1:25). God's Word helps us see sin in our lives and helps us get rid of it (Psalm 119:9, 11). It gives us guidance in life, making us wiser than our teachers (Psalm 32:8, 119:99; Proverbs 1:6). The Bible keeps us from wasting years of our lives on that which does not matter and will not last (Matthew 7:24-27).

Reading and studying the Bible helps us see beyond the attractive "bait" to the painful "hook" in sinful temptations, so that we can learn from others' mistakes rather than making them ourselves. Experience is a great teacher, but when it comes to learning from sin, it is a terribly hard teacher. It is so much better to learn from others' mistakes. There are so many Bible characters to learn from, some of whom can serve as both positive and negative role models at different times in their lives. For example, David, in his defeat of Goliath, teaches us that God is greater than anything He asks us to face (1 Samuel 17), while his giving in to the temptation to commit adultery with Bathsheba reveals just how long-lasting and terrible the consequences of a moment's sinful pleasure can be (2 Samuel 11).

The Bible is a book that is not merely for reading. It is a book for studying so that it can be applied. Otherwise, it is like swallowing food without chewing and then spitting it back out again "no nutritional value is gained by it. The Bible is God's Word. As such, it is as binding as the laws of nature. We can ignore it, but we do so to our own detriment, just as we would if we ignored the law of gravity. It cannot be emphasized strongly enough just how important the Bible is to our lives. Studying the Bible can be compared to mining for gold. If we make little effort and merely "sift through the pebbles in a stream," we will only find a little gold dust. But the more we make an effort to really dig into it, the more reward we will gain for our effort.