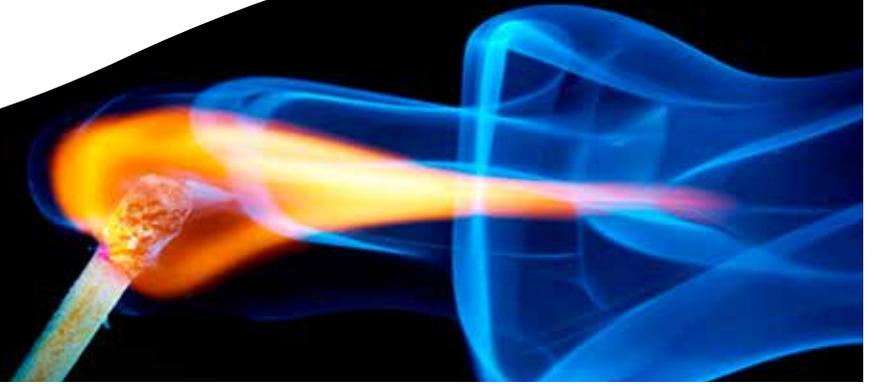




# MDI



## Resource meeting #3

What have you learned from the assigned Scripture reading this week?

**Meeting time:** 1 hour and 15 minutes

**Participants:** Anyone participating in a Missional Discipleship Group (MDG)

**Purpose:** To hear stories of transformation and to further resource participants.

### Agenda

**A. Listen:** What is God doing in our Missional Discipleship Groups? —35 minutes

- Scripture reading
- Prayer
- Accountability

**B. Resourcing:** What have you learned from the assigned Scripture reading this week? —35 minutes

#### Background

*"You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilization to pieces, turn the world upside down, and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature."*

—Mahatma Gandhi (leader of Indian nationalism in British-ruled India)

Jesus was emphatic when he said that "the seed (of God's kingdom) is God's word" (Luke 8:11b). Our lives are transformed and bear much fruit when *The Seed* (word of God) is continuously being planted deep within our hearts. It is crucial that every disciple of Jesus develops a healthy appetite for God's word. Without the spiritual discipline of regular Scripture reading, a disciple of Jesus will hinder their capacity to hear God's voice and follow his instructions. Our reading of Scripture should be regular, abundant, repetitive and communal (disciples should read together!). Nothing has more power for life transformation than the word of God ... NOTHING!

**Matthew 4:4:** "But Jesus told him, 'No! The *Scriptures* say, "People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'""

**Matthew 22:29:** "Jesus replied, 'Your mistake is that you don't know the *Scriptures*, and you don't know the power of God.'"

**John 5:39:** "You search the *Scriptures* because you think they give you eternal life. But the *Scriptures* point to me!"

**2 Timothy 3:15:** "You have been taught the holy *Scriptures* from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus."

**Hebrews 4:12:** "For the *word of God* is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."

**James 1:21:** "So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the *word God* has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls."

### Three reasons why this question is important

- 1. For life-long transformation:** As we do in our prayer time, regular reading and reflecting upon God's word will only enhance our capacity to listen for God's voice and instruction for daily living. D. L. Moody said, "The Bible was not given to us to inform us, but to transform us." He is right! A disciplined reading of our Bible will in time transform our lives from the inside out!
- 2. To grow in wisdom:** Regular and abundant Scripture reading helps us become effective disciples of Jesus as we grow in wisdom (see 2 Timothy 3:15 above) and gain a clearer understanding of God's purposes for our lives.
- 3. To mature as believers:** The word of God is like a mirror that exposes our character flaws (see Hebrews 4:12 above) and helps us see more clearly where are growing edges might be.

**C. Prayer:** Pray that we might hone our spiritual ears to clearly hear God's voice. —5 minutes