

## Small Group Guide: Understanding God's Personal Word

Opening Question: Have you ever felt like God spoke to you personally through Scripture or a message? Share your experience.

Key Takeaways:

1. There are two Greek words that mean "God's Word" in the New Testament:
  - Logos: The universal Word of God (Genesis to Revelation)
  - Rhema: God's personal word to individuals
2. The Holy Spirit's role is to:
  - Teach us
  - Remind us of Scripture
  - Guide us into truth
  - Turn logos into rhema (personal word)
3. Illumination is the "aha moment" when God's word becomes personally meaningful.
4. Responding to God's personal word is crucial for spiritual growth.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to understand the difference between logos and rhema?
2. How can misunderstanding God's promises lead to disappointment or shipwrecked faith?
3. Discuss a time when you experienced illumination - a moment when Scripture suddenly became personally meaningful to you.
4. How does the Holy Spirit's role in teaching, reminding, and guiding impact your approach to reading Scripture?
5. What are some ways we can discern if an impression or thought is truly from God?
6. How does receiving a personal word from God (rhema) produce faith in our lives?

Bible Study Questions:

### **Understanding Logos and Rhema:**

- Reflect on the two Greek words for "Word of God": Logos (universal word) and Rhema (personal word). How does recognizing the difference between these two help deepen your understanding of Scripture?
- Can you recall a time when a passage of Scripture seemed to speak directly to your situation, transforming from Logos to Rhema for you?

### **The Role of the Holy Spirit:**

- According to John 14:26, what roles does the Holy Spirit play in our understanding and application of Scripture?
- In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit teaching, reminding, or guiding you in your personal faith journey?

### **Promises of God:**

- Discuss why it's important that a promise from Scripture be given personally by the Holy Spirit to us instead of trying to claim it universally. How does this affect the way we pray and interpret Scripture?
- How do you discern when God is giving you a personal promise, and what steps do you take to ensure it's aligned with His will?

### **Faith and Action:**

- Romans 10:17 states that faith comes from hearing the Rhema Word of God. How does receiving a personal word from God increase your faith and impact your actions?
- Share an experience where you acted on a personal, spiritual revelation. What were the outcomes, and how did it affect your faith?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. **Daily Scripture Reading:** Commit to reading the Bible daily, even if you don't fully understand it, to allow the Holy Spirit to teach and remind you.
2. **Journaling:** Start a journal to record moments when you feel God is speaking personally to you through His word.
3. **Accountability:**
  - a. Pastor Dan spoke about the importance of responding when God speaks to us through His Word. Discuss some practical ways we can ensure obedience to the Rhema Word in our lives.
  - b. How can our community group support one another in recognizing and responding to God's personal words in our lives?
4. **Prayer Exercise:** Spend time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to illuminate Scripture and give you personal insight (rhema) for your current life situation.
5. **Scripture Meditation:** Choose a passage from the sermon (e.g., John 15:5-8) and meditate on it throughout the week, asking God to reveal personal meaning.

Closing Prayer: Lord, thank you for your universal word and for the personal words you speak to us. Help us to be attentive to your Spirit's teaching, reminders, and guidance. Give us discernment to recognize your voice and courage to respond obediently. May your word come alive in our hearts and produce faith that transforms our lives. Amen.