



# FORMATION

## Formation: The Authority of Scripture

**Date:** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

**Speakers:** Michael Munson & Jeff Stamps

**Key Verses:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### Talk Summary:

Paul is writing a letter to a young leader in a new community of Jesus followers. And as he does he points out how important scripture is.

- As we read this passage we see that Paul talks about scripture being God breathed. A lot of the time when we ask the question how divine is Scripture what we are really wondering is how human is it? Well really it's both. Just as Jesus is 100% human and 100% God, the bible is 100% written by "Old Jewish Dudes" and it is 100% inspired by God.
- All that means is we need to live in the tension this presents. When we try to resolve that tension we cheapen the power of scripture. Which is the story of God's interaction with people, and written to people of a certain time in history, in a certain cultural context. To understand that better, helps us understand the overall view of scripture better, and thus helps us know who God is better.
- And it is this that helps us begin to see it is so much more than a book of rules, but it is a story of God and humans, and that we are being invited into that story.
- Paul goes on to talk about how the bible is good for many things in our lives.
- Teaching: It is good for teaching us this story that God wants us to know about himself. It shows us who he is, his character, how much he loves humans and who we are to him. Valued, loved, worth fighting for and dying for. And when we read scripture we see it's four acts; 1.) Perfection, 2.) Humans mess it up, 3.) God picks up the pieces and tells humans how to fix it (but they can't), 4: God himself shows up and fixes it, 5.) You are living in it.
- So then we need to know what is our part in the play?
- Reproof: It is good to remind us of our place in the story. When we forget, or the other stories and narratives of life try to force it out, cloud it over it reminds us of our value and most of all it reminds us of who God really is.
- Correction: And when we get out of alignment, scripture acts as a carpentry level, and helps us get back into alignment. And sometimes it is intense, but it comes from a place of love in God, he wants us to get the most out of life, and to realign us to his story, actually does that for us.

- Training in Righteousness: This whole this teaching, reproofing, and correction are the things needed to help us take care of our mind, body and soul. We were designed to be taken up into the story of God. It is what will bring up peace in us. Paul is saying if we allow it the story of God will train us into peace and wholeness. The truth of it will set us free.
- And when that happens we see that the story is ever moving outward, it is intimately involved in the world. Going out to bring about a perfect conclusion to the story, which is eternity with the creator.
- And when we move into this realisation, when we read the story, let it correct us, remind us and teach us we will find ourselves complete, full equipped to do all the good works he has put in us to do. As you read and reread the story he is giving you everything you need to do everything he is asking you to do.

#### **Other Resources:**

- [The Big Three booklet](#)

#### **Group Discussion Questions**

##### **Welcome**

*If you don't eat together as a small group then you might want to start the group with some kind of ice breaker question. Remember to introduce yourselves when there are new people.*

##### **Worship**

*Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.*

*(Small group worship resources can be found at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship))*

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

*If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:*

- How is 'Read and Listen' going? What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

##### **Word**

*We want our thoughts and lives to be shaped by what God says in the Bible. If most of your group weren't there on a Sunday base the discussion on the main passage rather than the talk.*

- What from this week's talk/Bible passage stood out to you, and/or you found challenging? Why?
- Follow Jesus: What does this passage teach me about God?
- Live life to the full: What does this passage teach me about myself?
- Make a difference: What is God inviting you to do or change as a result of what we have discussed? (You can give everyone a minute or so in silence to write it down) Spend some time praying for one another.

##### **Witness**

*We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:*

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?