Life Group Discussion Questions

Message: A Word-empowered life
Date: November 1

UP – Knowing Jesus Intimately

1. In Salamis, Paul and Barnabas immediately began proclaiming the Word of God in the synagogues. How does grounding our life in Scripture help ensure that God's voice remains the loudest and most trusted voice we listen to?

- *Cross-Reference:* Read **Hebrews 4:12** and **Psalm 19:7–8**. How do these passages describe the active, living power of God's Word in our personal lives?

2. Jesus is introduced in John 1:1, 14 as the "Living Word" who came full of grace and truth. Why is it important to see all of Scripture as pointing to Jesus? How does this change the way we read it?

3. In Matthew 4:4, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy, saying, *"Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."* What is the difference between treating Scripture as an occasional snack versus daily nourishment?

IN – Being Known Authentically

4. In Acts 13:5, we see that John Mark was with Paul and Barnabas as their helper, sharing life and ministry together on the road. How does reading and discussing God's Word *together in a Life Group* help us grow as disciples?

5. The sermon highlighted the reality of spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:11–12, 1 Peter 5:8–9). How can we as a group better support and pray for one another when someone is experiencing subtle spiritual opposition, distraction, or doubt?

6. Elymas the sorcerer was described as being "full of deceit and trickery" and distorting the right ways of the Lord. Where do you see cultural "distortions" or subtle lies trying to creep into our lives or families, and how can we keep each other anchored in truth? *(NOTE FOR LEADERS: This question has the potential for political and cultural rabbit trails…be aware of this, and plan to steer the conversation back)*

- *Cross-Reference:* Read **Colossians 2:6–8**. How do we keep from being taken captive by deceptive philosophy?

7. What practical habits or rhythms (like morning reading, memory verses, or listening to audio Scripture) help you maintain a "Word-filled life" during busy weeks? Where do you struggle to make time?

OUT – Making Jesus Known Practically

8. Proconsul Sergius Paulus was an intelligent, high-ranking official who actively sought out spiritual truth. Who in your workplace, neighborhood, or community might be spiritually curious and waiting for someone to share God's Word with them?

9. When Elymas tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith, Paul—filled with the Holy Spirit—confronted the opposition with authority. How do we balance bold spiritual conviction with grace when facing resistance or skepticism to the gospel?

- *Cross-Reference:* Read **1 Peter 3:15–16**. How are we instructed to give an answer for the hope within us?

10. The gospel message was promised throughout the Old Testament and fulfilled in Jesus to bring freedom and sight to those in darkness (Luke 4:18–19). How can we practically share the "Good News" of Jesus with someone facing hardship or spiritual darkness this week?

11. A disciple is a follower of Jesus who hears from God and does what He says. What is one specific truth from God's Word that you feel called to share with or live out before an unbelieving friend this week?