



WEEK 10

1ST SEMESTER · FOUNDATION & IDENTITY

The Lamp and the Light

Living by the Word

SPIRITUAL THEME

Living by the Word

PERSONAL THEME

**Making decisions based on
God's Word**

Leaders: David Kyakulaga · Bernd Broschek

Bwembe Jesus Follower Bible School

Bwembe, Uganda · A project of Get it Done – direkte Entwicklungshilfe

verein-getitdone.org



Spiritual Theme: Living by the Word **Personal Theme:** Making Decisions Based on God's Word
Main Bible Texts: Psalm 119:105; Matthew 7:24–27; 2 Timothy 3:16–17 **Audience:** Bible students in Uganda **Language:** Simple English **Theological Direction:** Bible-faithful, evangelical, Christ-centered **Bible Translation Used:** World English Bible, public domain

Teacher's Note

This lecture is written in simple English. Read the Bible texts aloud, then teach slowly with examples and questions.

The main message is this: A Christian leader must build his life and decisions on the Word of God. Feelings, dreams, culture, pressure, and popularity cannot be the final authority. God's Word is the lamp for our steps, the rock under our house, and the tool God uses to teach, correct, and train His servants.

1. Introduction – The House on the Rock

Dear students, today we speak about living by the Word of God.

In Uganda, you know what happens when the heavy rains come. If a house is built on weak ground, the water can wash the soil away. The walls crack. The house becomes unsafe. But if a house is built on a strong foundation, it stands firm when the storm comes.

Jesus used a picture like this. He said that the person who hears His words and does them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

This is very important for leaders. A leader will face storms. There may be financial trouble, family problems, church conflict, temptation, criticism, sickness, or pressure from the community. If his decisions are built on emotions, fear of people, dreams, traditions, or what is popular, he will not stand firm. But if his life is built on the Word of God, he can stand.

The Bible is not only a book of stories. It is not only a book for Sunday preaching. It is the living Word of God. It shows us who God is, who we are, what sin is, what Christ has done, how we are saved, and how we must live.

A religious worker may use the Bible only when he needs to preach. But a true man of God lives under the Bible every day. He lets the Word guide his decisions, correct his heart, and shape his character.

So today we ask: Do I only know the Bible, or do I obey the Bible? Do I use the Bible to teach others, or do I first let the Bible teach me?

2. Bible Reading: Psalm 119:105

"Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path." (Psalm 119:105)

3. Teaching: The Word Is a Lamp for the Next Step

Psalm 119 says that God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path.

In the time of the Bible, people did not have modern flashlights. They used small oil lamps. These lamps did not show the whole road far ahead. They gave enough light for the next steps.

This is a helpful picture. Many people want God to show them the next ten years of their life. They want to know every detail about ministry, money, marriage, children, health, and future work. But often God gives enough light for obedience today.

A leader may not know the whole future, but he can ask: What does God's Word say about my next step?

If there is a conflict, the next step may be forgiveness. If there is a business decision, the next step may be honesty. If there is fear, the next step may be prayer and trust. If there is temptation, the next step may be to flee. If there is confusion, the next step may be to wait and seek wise counsel.

God's Word does not always answer every question in the way we want. But it always gives enough light to obey God.

A leader who ignores the lamp will stumble. A leader who follows the lamp may not see the whole road, but he will not walk in darkness.

4. Bible Reading: Matthew 7:24–27

"Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on a rock. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it didn't fall, for it was founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it fell—and its fall was great." (Matthew 7:24–27)

5. Teaching: Hearing Is Not Enough

Jesus speaks about two men. Both men built houses. Both men heard His words. Both men faced the storm. But only one house stood.

What was the difference? The wise man heard the words of Jesus and did them. The foolish man heard the words of Jesus but did not do them.

This is serious. Jesus does not say the foolish man never heard the truth. He heard it, but he did not obey it.

Many people hear sermons. Many people attend Bible studies. Many people can quote verses. A Bible student may even explain doctrine well. But if he hears the Word and does not obey, he is building on sand.

Knowledge without obedience is dangerous. It can make a person proud. He may think he is strong because he knows many things. But the storm will reveal the foundation.

The storm may be temptation. It may be money pressure. It may be family conflict. It may be criticism. It may be a difficult decision. When the storm comes, a life built on feelings or reputation will fall. A life built on obedient faith will stand.

This means a leader must not only ask, "What does the Bible say?" He must also ask, "How must I obey?"

If Jesus says forgive, we must not only preach forgiveness. We must forgive. If Jesus says be truthful, we must not lie in business. If Jesus says flee sexual immorality, we must not keep a secret relationship. If Jesus says love your wife, we must not treat her harshly at home.

A wise leader builds his life by hearing and doing the words of Jesus.

6. Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 3:16–17

"Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that each person who belongs to God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

7. Teaching: The Word Is God-Breathed

Paul tells Timothy that every Scripture is God-breathed. This means the Bible does not come merely from human opinion. God is the source of Scripture. Because God is true, His Word is trustworthy.

Most books tell us what people think about God. The Bible tells us what God Himself has revealed. Therefore, God's Word is more reliable than our feelings, dreams, traditions, fears, or the advice of neighbors.

Paul says Scripture is profitable in four ways.

First, it teaches us. It shows us the right path.

Second, it reproves us. It shows us where we are wrong.

Third, it corrects us. It shows us how to return to the right path.

Fourth, it trains us in righteousness. It teaches us how to continue walking with God.

Think of the Bible like a mirror. A man who never looks in a mirror may go outside with dirt on his face and not know it. In the same way, a leader who does not read the Word for himself may have pride, greed, anger, lust, or wrong motives in his heart and not see them.

Before a leader uses the Bible to correct others, he must let the Bible correct him. Before he preaches against sin in the church, he must allow the Holy Spirit to use the Word on his own heart.

The goal is that the servant of God may be complete and equipped for every good work. A leader who is not shaped by Scripture will not be ready for the work of God. A leader who lives under Scripture becomes useful in God's hands.

8. Bible Reading: Hebrews 4:12

"For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

9. Teaching: The Word Cuts and Heals the Heart

Hebrews says the Word of God is living and active. The Bible is not a dead book. God uses His Word to work in the human heart.

It is sharper than a two-edged sword. This means the Word cuts deeply. It exposes what is hidden. It reveals our thoughts and intentions.

This is important because we often lie to ourselves. A leader may say, "I am doing this ministry for God's glory," but deep in his heart he may want money, praise, power, or respect. A man may say, "I am correcting this person for truth," but his heart may be full of anger and pride.

The Word of God cuts through excuses. It shows us what is really happening inside us.

But this cutting is not to destroy us. It is like a surgeon's knife. A surgeon cuts to remove what is dangerous and to bring healing. In the same way, God's Word cuts pride, hidden sin, false motives, and lies out of the heart.

When the Bible makes you uncomfortable, do not run away. Let God work. Conviction is a mercy. It is better for the Word to expose your sin today than for your sin to destroy your life tomorrow.

Many books can inform the mind, but only God's Word, by the Holy Spirit, transforms the soul.

10. Sola Scriptura – Scripture as Final Authority

During the Reformation, Christians spoke about an important truth: Sola Scriptura. This means Scripture alone is the final authority for faith and life.

This does not mean we reject all advice, history, pastors, teachers, parents, or government. These can have a proper place. But none of them stands above the Word of God.

If culture says one thing and Scripture says another, we follow Scripture. If family pressure says one thing and Scripture says another, we follow Scripture. If a famous preacher, prophet, or leader says something that contradicts the Bible, we follow the Bible.

This is very important in the church. Some people trust dreams, visions, prophecies, or powerful personalities more than the written Word of God. God is able to guide His people, but any message that contradicts Scripture must be rejected.

The Bible is the measuring stick. It tests every teaching, every prophecy, every tradition, and every decision.

A strong leader is not the man who follows every voice. A strong leader is the man who submits every voice to the Word of God.

11. Making Decisions Based on the Word

How do we make decisions by the Bible?

First, ask: Is there a clear command?

If someone offers you a business deal that requires a lie, you do not need to pray, "Lord, should I lie?" God has already spoken. His Word commands truthfulness. A Christian does not need to pray about whether he should sin.

Second, ask: Is there a biblical principle?

Sometimes the Bible does not name the exact situation. For example, "Should I move my family to another town for work?" There may not be one verse with your town's name. But there are principles. Will this help my family follow Christ? Will it damage my marriage or children? Can I serve God faithfully there? Have I sought wise counsel? Am I acting from fear, greed, or faith?

Third, obey what God has shown you.

Obedience is the test. Many people want more guidance, but they have not obeyed the light they already have. If God has shown you the next step, take it.

A leader must not preach truths he refuses to live. If he preaches forgiveness but holds bitterness, he is building on sand. If he preaches honesty but lies in reports, he is building on sand. If he preaches purity but hides sexual sin, he is building on sand.

The wise man hears and obeys.

12. Practical Application for Church Workers in Uganda

In many places, leaders face a struggle between culture and Scripture. Some cultural practices are good and can be received with thankfulness. But some practices must be corrected by the Word of God.

For example, some wedding customs, burial rituals, family expectations, or traditional practices may include fear of spirits, honoring ancestors in a wrong way, or seeking spiritual power outside of Christ. If a practice takes glory from God or leads people away from Christ, the Word of God says no.

A leader must know the Word well enough to explain his decision with gentle strength. He should not be proud or insulting toward his people. But he must be clear. Jesus is Lord, and Scripture is final authority.

This also applies to money, marriage, leadership, conflict, and family life. The question is not first, "What do people expect?" The first question is, "What does God's Word say?"

13. Call to Respond

Dear students, God has not left us in darkness. He has given us His Word as a lamp for our feet and a light for our path.

If you have made decisions mainly by fear, feelings, culture, or the desire to please people, repent and return to the Word.

If you have used the Bible only to prepare sermons, begin to read it for your own soul.

If the Word has exposed pride, sin, or wrong motives in your heart, do not run away. Let God correct and heal you.

If you are facing a difficult decision, do not ask first, "What is popular?" Ask, "What is written?"

The wise leader builds on the rock. He hears the words of Jesus and does them.

14. Discussion Questions

1. Why is the Bible more reliable than our feelings, dreams, or culture?
2. What does it mean that God's Word is a lamp for our feet?

3. Why is hearing the Word not enough?
4. What is the difference between building on rock and building on sand?
5. How can a leader read the Bible for his own heart and not only for sermons?
6. What is one cultural practice that must be tested by Scripture?
7. Why can correction from the Word feel painful but still be good?
8. If a famous "man of God" says something that contradicts the Bible, what should we do?

15. Short Group Exercise

Divide the students into small groups. Give each group one situation and ask: What would a decision based on feelings or culture look like? What would a decision based on the Word look like?

Situation 1: A business deal will bring money, but it requires a small lie. **Situation 2:** A family pressures a believer to join a ritual that honors ancestors in a wrong way. **Situation 3:** A church leader is angry and wants to correct someone harshly in public. **Situation 4:** A young pastor reads the Bible only when he needs a sermon. **Situation 5:** A respected preacher gives advice that contradicts Scripture.

16. Memory Sentences for Students

- God's Word is a lamp to my feet.
- God's Word gives enough light for the next step.
- A wise man hears the words of Jesus and does them.
- The Bible is God-breathed and trustworthy.
- The Word teaches, reproves, corrects, and trains.
- The Word of God is living and active.
- Scripture is the final authority.
- A leader must build on the rock, not on sand.

17. Closing Prayer

Father in heaven,

Thank You for giving us Your Word. Thank You that You have not left us in darkness. Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path.

Forgive us when we trust our feelings more than Your Word. Forgive us when we follow culture, fear, or people's opinions instead of Scripture. Forgive us when we read the Bible only to teach



others, but not to be changed ourselves.

Teach us to build our lives on the words of Jesus. Help us not only to hear, but also to obey. Make us wise leaders who stand firm when the storms come.

Use Your Word to teach us, reprove us, correct us, and train us in righteousness. Let Your Word expose wrong motives and hidden sins, not to destroy us, but to heal us and make us useful for Your work.

Give us courage to follow Scripture even when culture, family, or powerful people pressure us. Help us to speak the truth with gentleness and strength.

Make us leaders who love Your Word, live by Your Word, and lead others according to Your Word.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.