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# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Sharpening Your Sword Series, Lesson 34

**Lesson Title:** The Bible's Purpose—What's the Point?

**Take Home Point:** The Bible shows us Jesus, our Savior, and how to follow him.

#### Warm-Up:

I am an avid reader. My parents taught me the joys of learning, escaping, and otherwise expanding my horizons in the writings of many people. I like to read many different kinds of books, although I tend toward non-fiction and especially enjoy books on topics such as history and science. When I go to the library, I am amazed at the number of books already available and the large numbers of new releases waiting to be read. Over the years, I have observed that every book is written for a purpose. It may be to inform, educate, persuade, amuse, shock, mislead, escape, or a host of other reasons. Many authors explicitly state why they wrote by including their intent in a preface or other introductory remarks. They may even say what they want you to think about or take away as you read it.

**Read:** John 20:30-31; Ephesians 6:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

#### Observation (What happened?):

Why did John write what he did?

According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, what is scripture useful for?

#### Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean that the word of God is our spiritual sword?

What does John mean when he says, "you may have life in his name"?

#### Insight:

Depending on the version, the word "believe" is used somewhere between 50 and 100 times in the gospel of John. So when he tells you in 20:30-31 that he is writing so you may believe that Jesus is the Christ our Savior, he is quite consistent in his message! The other gospels add another 50-100 references, as well. These men were not simply writing an interesting history about an interesting man; they were writing under the compelling of the Holy Spirit of God to record for the ages their eyewitness account of the Son of God come to earth to rescue a humanity condemned to death. They were clear in their writing and their intent. Other scripture writers were, too, like Paul in his letter to Timothy. Their written words are empowered by that same Spirit for us to use still today. Did you notice that the word of God is the only offensive weapon described in Ephesians 6 as part of the armor of God for every Christian? It isn't just something we listen to someone else talk about – it's our protection and weapon to resist the deceiving voices of the world and Satan. How blessed we are to have God's written word!

#### Application (What does it mean to me?):

How well do you know the word of God? What are you doing to get to know it better every day?

Who do you know that needs to hear something from God's word this week? Pray for the opportunity to speak it to them.

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