

**Background:** *Wednesday evening meetings in Christian Science churches include readings from the King James Version of The Bible and passages from "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science. Then, the congregation is invited to participate and share accounts of healing and spiritual insights. The meetings also include prayer and hymn singing from the "Christian Science Hymnal."*

**The Bible is central to Christian Science. "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" is a companion to the Bible that explains the scientific system of Christian healing. You can find out more about Christian Science and spiritual healing at <http://www.christianscience.com>, a website of The Christian Science Publishing Society, in Boston, Massachusetts.**

## Readings Topic: The Power of the Word

### The Bible

#### 1. John 1:1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

#### 2. Ps 119:159,160,162, 169 give

159 Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O Lord, according to thy lovingkindness.

160 Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

162 I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

169 give me understanding according to thy word.

#### 3. Ps 107:15, 20

15 Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

20 He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

#### 4. I John 1:1, 3 declare

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

3 declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

#### 5. John 1:14

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

#### 6. Mark 1:14 Jesus, 22

14 Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

22 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

#### 7. John 5:19, 24, 39

19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

39 ¶ Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

#### 8. John 6:1-2, 26-40 Verily

1 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

26 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

30 They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

36 But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

**9. Luke 24:1-20, 25-34**

1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.  
2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.  
3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.  
4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:  
5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?  
6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,  
7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.  
8 And they remembered his words,  
9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.  
10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.  
11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.  
12 ¶ And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.  
13 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.  
14 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.  
15 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.  
16 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?  
17 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?  
18 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:  
19 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.  
20 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:  
21 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?  
22 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.  
23 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.  
24 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.  
25 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.  
26 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

**10. Rev 1:1**

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

**11. Rev 4:2 behold**

2 behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

**12. Rev 5:1, 3**

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

**13. Job 32:8 there**

8 there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

**14. Rev 10:1, 2, 8-9 (to ;)**

1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

8 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.

9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up;

**15. II Timothy 3:14-17 continue**

14 continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

**16. Colossians 3:16**

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

## Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures

### 1. 497:3 As

As adherents of Truth, we take the inspired Word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal Life.

### 2. 559:10-12

The inaudible voice of Truth is, to the human mind, "as when a lion roareth."

12 It is heard in the desert and in dark places of fear.

### 3. 46:5

In the walk to Emmaus, Jesus was known to his friends by the words, which made their hearts burn within them, and by the breaking of bread. The divine Spirit, which identified Jesus thus centuries ago, has spoken through the inspired Word and will speak through it in every age and clime. It is revealed to the receptive heart, and is again seen casting out evil and healing the sick.

### 4. 271:11

In Latin the word rendered disciple signifies student; and the word indicates that the power of healing was not a supernatural gift to those learners, but the result of their cultivated spiritual understanding of the divine Science, which their Master demonstrated by healing the sick and sinning. Hence the universal application of his saying: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me [understand me] through their word."

### 5. 332:23-26 He

He was appointed to speak God's word and to appear to mortals in such a form of humanity as they could understand as well as perceive.

### 6. 272:3-9

The spiritual sense of truth must be gained before Truth can be understood. This sense is assimilated only as we are honest, unselfish, loving, and meek.

In the soil of an "honest and good heart" the seed must be sown; else it beareth not much fruit, for the swinish element in human nature uproots it. Jesus said: "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures."

### 7. 537:24-26

Inspired writers interpret the Word spiritually, while the ordinary historian interprets it literally.

### 8. 320:24-25

24 The one important interpretation of Scripture is the spiritual.

### 9. 241:14-17

Take away the spiritual signification of Scripture, and that compilation can do no more for mortals than can moonbeams to melt a river of ice.

### 10. 358:9-11

Christian Science, understood, coincides with the Scriptures, and sustains logically and demonstratively every point it presents

### 11. 146:23

Divine Science derives its sanction from the Bible, and the divine origin of Science is demonstrated through the holy influence of Truth in healing sickness and sin. This healing power of Truth must have been far anterior to the period in which Jesus lived. It is as ancient as "the Ancient of days." It lives through all Life, and extends throughout all space.

### 12. 350:24

24 "The Word was made flesh." Divine Truth must be known by its effects on the body as well as on the mind, before the Science of being can be demonstrated. Hence its embodiment in the incarnate Jesus, — that life-link forming the connection through which the real reaches the unreal, Soul rebukes sense, and Truth destroys error.

### 13. 547:23-25, 28-32

The Scriptures are very sacred. Our aim must be to have them understood spiritually, for only by this understanding can truth be gained.

Inspired thought relinquishes a material, sensual, and mortal theory of the universe, and adopts the spiritual and immortal.

It is this spiritual perception of Scripture, which lifts humanity out of disease and death and inspires faith.

### 14. 271:26-30

Those, who are willing to leave their nets or to cast them on the right side for Truth, have the opportunity now, as aforetime, to learn and to practise Christian healing. The Scriptures contain it.

30 The spiritual import of the Word imparts this power.

## Hymns

### Hymn 251

William W. How  
Adapted

BENTLEY  
John P. Hullah

O Word of God, most holy,  
O wisdom from on high,  
O Truth, unchanged, unchanging,  
O light of earth's dark sky,  
We bless Thee for the radiance  
That from the hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps,  
Shines on from age to age.

O Word of God the Father,  
Thou art the gift divine,  
And still thy light is lifted,  
O'er all the lands to shine.  
It is the chart and compass  
To guide us to our Lord;  
It is the heaven-drawn picture  
Of Christ, the living Word.

### Hymn 175

Violet Hay

HYFRYDOL  
Rowland H. Prichard

Lo, He sent His Word and healed them,  
Still that Word of God is here.  
Still its tender healing message  
Speaks to every listening ear.  
Truth divine, that overcometh  
All the ills that seem to be,  
In our hearts Thy Word abiding,  
We may know Thee and be free.

Love divine, that faileth never,  
Still Thy presence and Thy power  
Mighty are to save and heal us,  
Guard and guide us every hour.  
Life divine, Thy Word proclaimeth  
All true being one with Thee.  
Sinless, fearless, whole, rejoicing,  
Now and through eternity.

### Hymn 334

William Cowper\*

ST. STEPHEN  
William Jones

The spirit breathes upon the Word  
And brings the truth to sight;  
Precept and promise still afford  
A sanctifying light.

A glory gilds the sacred page,  
Majestic like the sun;  
It gives a light to every age,  
It gives but borrows none.

Let everlasting thanks be Thine  
For such a bright display  
As makes a world of darkness shine  
With beams of heavenly day.