

Biblical Authority-

**Meaningful Words** 

Use the following discussion questions in your Sunday school class, small group, or family devotions. Read the article Meaningful Words on page 80 of Answers (Vol. 8 No. 2) before answering the questions.

1. Think of some of the odd ideas you have heard from other Christians (such as the snake handlers of Appalachia). Can you trace these back to some misinterpreted Scripture?

2. Read James's caution for teachers in James 3:1–5. What is the reason behind his warning?

3. Considering the verse above, what impact can false or ignorant teaching have within a small group, a church, or even a whole society? How does this danger reinforce the value of hermeneutics?

**4.** What are some basic principles of interpretation that every Christian should follow? Brainstorm some tools that you can use to equip yourself. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Read Matthew 7:7-8. The Greek verb tenses in these verses (ask, seek, and knock) express the idea of continuous or repeated actions. How does this insight give these verses further depth and application to your life?

6. Read Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 40:8; John 17:17; and 1 Thessalonians 2:13. What characteristics of the Bible are given in these verses? Why do these verses support the importance of being careful with every word of Scripture when we interpret and apply it in our lives?

7. Was there a time when a false interpretation hurt your spiritual life? What can you do to protect yourself and others from this problem? \_\_\_\_