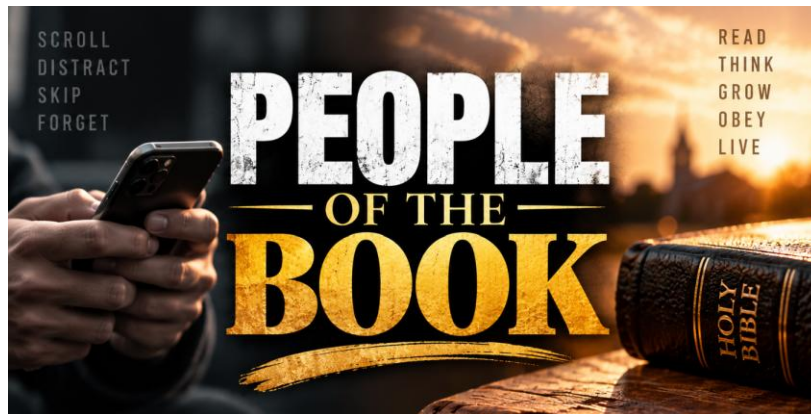




Series: How to Study the Bible in 2026

INTRODUCTION

By many measures, we are raising a generation that increasingly does not like to read.

When a generation loses its appetite and ability for sustained reading, it is in danger of losing its ability and willingness to deeply engage the word of God.

The purpose of this study is not to convince you that a book is inherently spiritual, but to persuade God's people to get back to the discipline of reading, studying, meditating upon, and obeying the word of God.

We live in a culture that has trained us to consume information in:

15 seconds... 30 seconds... 60 seconds... a headline... a sound bite... a short video... a meme!

We do not have less information but ***less patience for information that requires concentration.***

There are numerous statistics that show how sustained reading and literacy are declining.

And the ability to understand increasingly complex written material matters! Amen.

So, what happens when a culture that reads less becomes a church that reads less?

After all, we are not just talking about any kind of book... we are talking about the holy Bible!

1. READING MATTERS – God's plan was to give His people a Book.

Key Verse

1 Timothy 4:13 – “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”

It does not say *give attendance* to entertainment or to whatever holds people's attention. It says first *give attendance* to **READING**.

Key Truth

“Attend” – to fix the mind upon; to listen; to regard with attention

- ✓ Reading requires something our culture increasingly resists – **ATTENTION**.
- ✓ The Bible assumes **READERS**. **2 Kings 23:22; 2Chron 34:30; Nehemiah 8:8, 18; 9:3**
 - **Isaiah 34:16** – Seek ye out the book of the LORD, and read...
 - **Deut 17:19; 31:11** – ... it shall be with him... he shall **read** therein all... his life
 - **Ex 17:4; Josh 8:34-35** – ...the LORD said... Write this for a memorial in a book

2. THINKING MATTERS – the issue is much bigger than reading.

Reading is not just looking at words – it is thinking through words.

Consider the words God uses

- ✓ *John 5:39 Search the scriptures...*
- ✓ *2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God...*
- ✓ *Psalms 1:2 ... in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

That is not passive consumption of content – that is intense *attention* to the word of God!

Our problem is not information

More information does not automatically produce more wisdom.

You can have a million facts and no discernment.

You can have a thousand opinions and no convictions.

You can have constant information and very little understanding.

*Proverbs 4:7 – Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom:
and with all thy getting get understanding.*

The Christian life requires the ability to think biblically – and that requires *attention*.

The danger of a shallow mind

If we train ourselves to move on every few seconds whenever something becomes difficult or boring, eventually we may carry that habit into:

Bible reading, prayer, discipleship, study, preaching, doctrine

We begin asking: “How long is the sermon?” ... instead of “What is God teaching me?”

We will become people who want the conclusion without the investigation.

3. A LIFE CHANGING BOOK – we must know the Bible to obey the Bible.

The Holy Spirit chose these words related to how we will attend to and engage with His Book:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| • <u>READ</u> | 82 times | Receiving God’s written words; public and personal reading |
| • <u>STUDY</u> | 5 times | Applying the mind diligently; comparing Scriptures |
| • <u>SEARCH</u> | 84 times | Examining and investigating; searching the Scriptures |
| • <u>MEDITATE</u> | 14 times | Dwelling on, pondering, and considering truth |
| • <u>HEAR</u> | 659 times | Listening, receiving, and responding to what God says |
| • <u>UNDERSTAND</u> | 266 times | Comprehending and grasping the meaning |
| • <u>REMEMBER</u> | 214 times | Retaining truth and bringing it back to the mind |
| • <u>OBSERVE</u> | 70 times | Paying attention and putting truth into practice |
| • <u>TEACH</u> | 157 times | Passing truth on to others and the next generation |
| • <u>KEEP</u> | 424 times | Holding fast, guarding, obeying, and preserving truth |

Notice where all of this begins... **READING!**

THE CHALLENGE

- ✓ The world says, “Scroll, scroll, scroll.”
 - **God says, “Search the scriptures.”**
- ✓ The world says, “Give me something quick.”
 - **God says, “Meditate day and night.”**
- ✓ The world says, “Tell me what everyone thinks.”
 - **God says, “What saith the scripture?”**

SOME QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you simply sat down and read the Bible?
 - Not listening to someone explain it...
 - Not watching someone preach it...
 - Not reading a devotional about it...
2. Can you sit still with a passage long enough to understand it?
 - Can you read a chapter several times?
 - Can you look up and compare Scriptures with other Scriptures?
 - Can you stop and ask:
 - What does this mean?
 - Why did God put this here?
 - What does this teach me about God?
 - What does this expose about my life?
3. Do you love the Bible? Are you teaching the next generation to love the Bible?
 - Children and people learn what matters by watching us.
 - If they see you constantly staring at screens but rarely opening the Bible...
 - If they see you reach for your phone first thing every day and not your Bible...
 - If they hear you say, “I don’t have time to read” but spend an hour scrolling...

1 Timothy 4:13 – “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”

We cannot control what happens to the culture, what schools teach, what social media does... But we can decide and control what happens in our church, in our homes, and in our lives. Perhaps the right question is, “**Do you truly know the Book that God has given you?**” Someday the phone will be gone, the internet will be gone, the videos will be gone, the distractions will be gone, but ... “The word of our God shall stand for ever.” - **Isaiah 40:8**