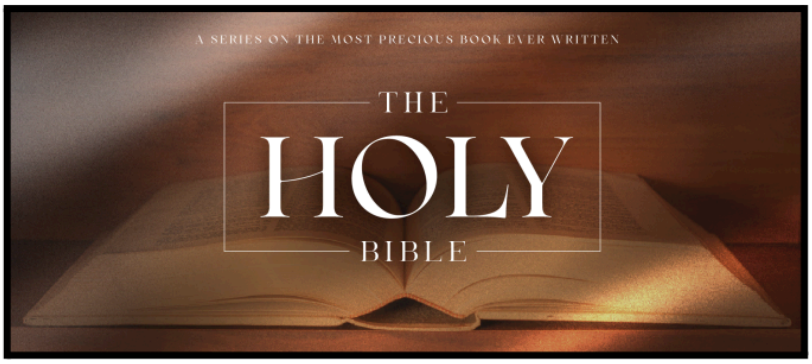


THE HOLY BIBLE

WEEK 6 - How do I read my Bible

KEY VERSE

Colossians 3:16 is the anchor verse for this series. Before diving into discussion, take a moment as a group to read it aloud together. The first word, "Let," is worth sitting with. The Word has power on its own. The question is whether we are allowing it to work in us.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. The Bible must be more than something we visit occasionally.**

Pastor Matt used the image of a tea bag dipping into water. A brief dip leaves only a trace. The goal is for the Word of God to dwell in you richly, which requires consistent, repeated immersion in Scripture.

2. The Bible is inspired, inerrant, and infallible.**

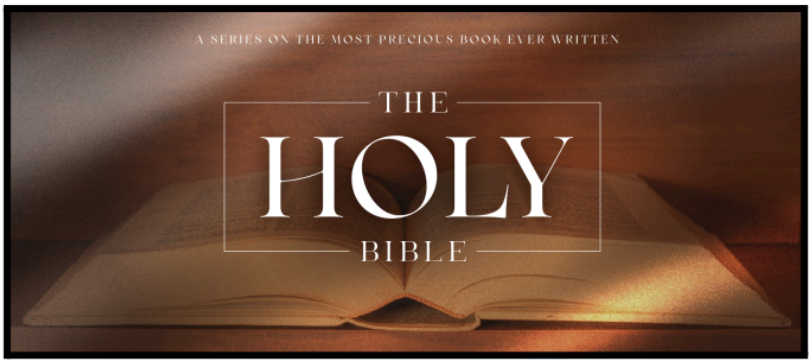
Scripture is described in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 as God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. It is not merely a helpful book. It is the living Word of God, fully equipped to prepare believers for every good work.

3. All reliable translations go back to the original manuscripts.**

The existence of multiple Bible translations is not a weakness. It is a gift. Translators are not translating from one another. They are returning to the original Hebrew and Greek texts. Different translation philosophies serve different purposes, and finding one you can understand is a practical first step toward consistent Bible reading.

4. The Bible is one unified story pointing to Jesus.**

From Genesis to Revelation, the Old and New Testaments mirror each other and converge on a single subject: Jesus Christ. As Jesus himself said in John 5:39, the Scriptures point to him. Understanding this big picture transforms how you read every individual passage.



5. The subject of the Bible is Jesus. The verb of the Bible is give.**

God gave his Son. Jesus gave his life. And in response, we are called to give our lives for others. The entire arc of Scripture leads to and flows from this act of sacrificial love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How often do you currently read your Bible? Be honest. What does your current rhythm look like, and how does it feel to describe it out loud?

2. Pastor Matt described the tea bag illustration, where the water is your life and the tea bag is the Word of God. A brief dip leaves only a trace. Where would you say you currently fall on that spectrum?

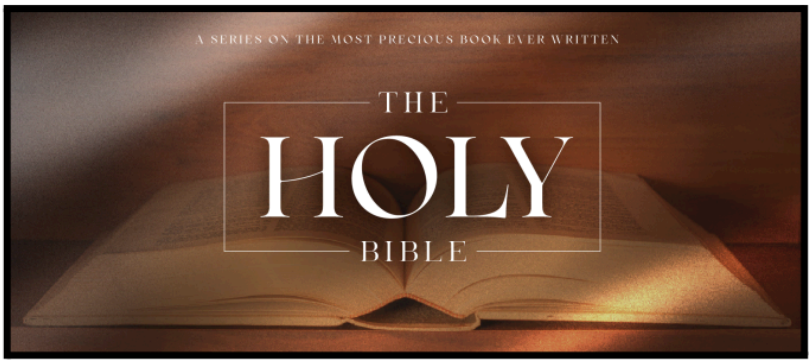
3. "If you let the word of God dwell inside of you, you will discover who God made you to be." Have you ever experienced a season where consistent time in Scripture genuinely changed how you saw yourself or your circumstances? What happened?

4. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says Scripture is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Which of those four functions do you feel you need most right now, and why?

5. Were you aware that Bible translators work from the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts rather than from previous English translations? How does knowing that affect your confidence in the Bible you hold?

6. Pastor Matt introduced three translation categories: formal equivalency, functional equivalency, and paraphrase. Do you know which category your current Bible falls into? Have you ever tried reading a passage in more than one translation? What was that experience like?

10. The SOAP method was briefly introduced: Study, Observation, Application, and Prayer. As a starting framework, what would it look like for you to apply that to even five minutes of Bible reading each day this week?



PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Pick up or download a Bible translation you have never read before and read the same passage in both your current translation and the new one. Notice what each version helps you see.

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 in three different translations, just as Pastor Lee demonstrated with verse 4. Journal what each version reveals to you about the meaning of love.

- If you do not own a Study Bible, research one that fits your learning style. The Life Application Bible, the ESV Study Bible, and the John Maxwell Leadership Bible were all mentioned as options.

- Spend time this week reading an overview of the Bible's structure. The Bible Project was recommended as a resource. Watch one of their overview videos as a group or on your own.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Colossians 3:16

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- John 5:39

- John 3:16

- 1 John 3:16

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7