

FROM
READING
TO LIVING



A Guide to Reading the Bible



WELCOME

The Bible is one of the most read books in history—and yet for many of us, it can still feel confusing, overwhelming, or difficult to apply to everyday life. Where do we start? How do we understand what we're reading? And how do we move from simply reading Scripture to actually living it out?

This devotional series is designed to help you grow as a reader of the Bible by giving you simple, practical tools you can use every day. Over the course of four weeks, we'll walk through a framework that will help you not only understand God's Word more clearly, but also experience its transforming power more personally.

What's In This Book?

Each week we will add a new tool to your Bible reading toolbox and also build upon what you've previously learned:



Week 1: Reading With The Right Posture

Before we even open the Bible, we need to examine our hearts. Scripture teaches that reading the Bible isn't just an intellectual exercise—it's a relational one. In this first week we'll learn how to approach God's Word with humility, a desire to know Him, and a willingness to obey.



Week 2: Reading with Context

The Bible was written in real moments of history, through real people, with real purpose. Learning to read Scripture in context helps us understand what God is actually saying—so we don't misinterpret or misuse His Word.



Week 3: Reading With Jesus at the Center

The entire Bible tells one unified story—and at the center of that story is Jesus. As we learn to read Scripture through this lens, we begin to see how every passage ultimately points to Him and reveals God's plan of salvation.



Week 4: Moving From Reading to Living

The goal of Bible reading isn't just information—it's transformation. God's Word is meant to shape how we think, live, and love. This final week focuses on how to faithfully apply Scripture in our everyday lives.

How This Devotional Works

Each week begins with a link to a special sermon message which will introduce the Bible reading tool for the week, set the theme, and help you understand how to use it. The rest of the week's devotionals are designed to help you practice applying that tool through guided daily readings. Rather than just learning about the Bible, you'll actively engage with it—developing habits and skills that will stay with you long after this series is finished.

A Vision Bigger Than This Devotional

Our hope is that this devotional doesn't just stay on these pages, but begins to shape conversations in your everyday life. Whether around the dinner table, with your family, or in a conversation with a friend, we believe God wants to use His Word to form Jesus-centered homes—places where faith is lived, shared, and grown together.

You don't have to navigate this journey alone. If questions come up along the way, that's a good thing. We would love to walk with you—whether that means having a conversation with a pastor, joining a group, or simply reaching out to talk and pray together.

A Final Encouragement

You don't need to be a Bible expert to grow in your understanding of Scripture. You simply need a willing heart and a consistent rhythm. As you commit to this journey, trust that God is not only speaking through His Word—but also shaping you through it.

Let's begin.

Day 01

Reading With The Right Posture

How can your heart posture change the way you read the Bible? In this kickoff message, we explore **Matthew 22:34–46** and **John 3:1–17** to discover how humility, a desire to know God, and a willingness to obey transform not just what we read—but how we experience God through Scripture. Learn how approaching the Bible with the right posture can unlock its life-changing truth.

Sermon Message

Watch the video by scanning the QR code below with a smartphone.



–OR VISIT–

<https://columbusevangelicalchurc.subspla.sh/434kthk>

Day 02

Love - The Foundation of Reading

Theme of the Week: Reading With the Right Posture

When we approach Scripture with love for God and love for others, our reading moves beyond rules or trivia. Jesus shows us that the posture of the heart matters more than the posture of the body. Today, ask God to open your heart to His Word and help you love as He commands.

Scripture Passage: Matthew 22:35-40

Look Closer

- What does Jesus say the entire Law and Prophets depend on?



Passage Context

The Gospel of Matthew is an account of the life and teachings of Jesus that emphasizes Him as the promised Messiah and King foretold in the Old Testament. In chapter 22, the religious leaders of the day are trying to use questions about the Bible to trap Jesus into saying something false, instead of asking questions to grow in their knowledge and relationship with God.

Day 03

Craving the Word

Theme of the Week: Reading With the Right Posture

Just as a newborn longs for milk, our souls need spiritual nourishment. Approaching Scripture with humility and a deep desire to know God transforms how we read. Let today be a day to intentionally cultivate a hunger for God's Word and let it feed your growth in faith.

Scripture Passage: 1 Peter 2:1-3

Look Closer

- What attitudes should believers put away?



Passage Context

First Peter is a letter written by Peter the Apostle to encourage Christians who were facing hardship and opposition for their faith. It reminds believers that their hope is found in Jesus Christ and calls them to live holy, faithful lives as God's people in a challenging world. In chapter 2, Peter encourages believers to grow spiritually after having described their spiritual rebirth through Jesus (1 Peter 1:23).

Consider the Meaning

- Why compare believers to newborn infants?

- How does longing for the Word lead to growth?



Seeing Jesus

Jesus is our source of spiritual nourishment.

Live It Out

- How can you grow your desire for Scripture?



Pray

Ask God to deepen your hunger for His Word.



Key Takeaway

A growing hunger for God's Word leads to spiritual growth and maturity.

Day 04

Renewed Minds, Transformed Lives

Theme of the Week: Reading With the Right Posture

Reading the Bible with the right posture isn't just about understanding—it's about letting God transform our thoughts and actions. Today, reflect on areas of your thinking that may need God's renewal, and invite the Holy Spirit to shape your mind according to His truth.

Scripture Passage: Romans 12:2

Look Closer

- What two commands does Paul give?



Passage Context

The Epistle to the Romans is a letter written by the apostle Paul the Apostle that explains the gospel in a clear and systematic way. It teaches that all people are sinful, that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ rather than works, and that this grace transforms how believers live. This verse begins the practical application section of Paul's letter after explaining the gospel.

Day 05

Incline Your Heart Toward His Word

Theme of the Week: Reading With the Right Posture

The psalmist models a posture of humility, desire, and delight in God's Word. Our hearts are easily distracted, but God invites us to long for Him. Today, pause and ask God to turn your heart fully toward His Word and help you delight in His truth.

Scripture Passage: Psalm 119:33–40

Look Closer

- What requests does the psalmist repeatedly make?



Passage Context

The Book of Psalms is a collection of ancient songs and prayers that express the full range of human emotions in relationship with God, including praise, lament, thanksgiving, and trust. These poetic writings were used in the worship of Israel and teach believers how to honestly bring their joys, struggles, and hopes before the Lord. This section of scripture is part of a much larger psalm celebrating God's Word and our dependence on God for understanding it.

Consider the Meaning

- Why does the psalmist ask God for help understanding His Word?



Seeing Jesus

Jesus is the living Word of God (John 1:1-14).

Live It Out

- What attitude toward Scripture is modeled here?

- What distraction might keep you from delighting in God's Word?



Pray

Ask God to incline your heart toward His truth.



Key Takeaway

A humble and eager heart posture opens the door to delighting in God's Word.

Day 06

Relying on the Spirit

Theme of the Week: Reading With the Right Posture

Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will guide our understanding of His Word. Spiritual posture is about dependence, not self-reliance. Today, ask the Spirit to teach you, remind you, and bring Scripture alive in your life at the right moment.

Scripture Passage: John 14:26

Look Closer

- In whose name will the Spirit come?



Passage Context

Jesus is speaking during the Last Supper, preparing His disciples for His imminent departure through crucifixion. He promises that the Holy Spirit will come as a Helper, sent by the Father, to teach them and remind them of everything He has said. This assurance is part of a larger section (John 13–17) where Jesus comforts and instructs His followers about how they will continue His mission after He is gone.

Consider the Meaning

- Why would the disciples need help remembering Jesus' teaching?



Seeing Jesus

The Holy Spirit helps believers understand and remember the teachings of Jesus.

Live It Out

- How can you depend on the Spirit when reading the Bible?

- When have you experienced Scripture coming to mind at the right moment?



Pray

Ask the Spirit to guide your understanding of God's Word.



Key Takeaway

We understand and remember Scripture best when we depend on the Holy Spirit.



Spirit-Taught Understanding

Theme of the Week: Reading With the Right Posture

Human wisdom alone cannot grasp God's truth. Approaching the Bible with humility and reliance on the Spirit allows us to see Jesus and His ways clearly. Today, lean on the Spirit to illuminate Scripture and trust Him to reveal God's truths beyond your own understanding.

Scripture Passage: 1 Corinthians 2:12-14

Look Closer

- What contrast does Paul make between the Spirit and the world?



Passage Context

The book of 1 Corinthians is a letter from Paul to a struggling church in Corinth. This church is struggling with division and worldly thinking which have undermined their spiritual discernment. In this passage, Paul contrasts human wisdom with the wisdom revealed by the Spirit, emphasizing that only the Holy Spirit enables believers to understand God's deeper truths.

Consider the Meaning

- What role does the Spirit play in understanding Scripture?



Seeing Jesus

The Holy Spirit reveals the truth about Jesus.

Live It Out

- How does this encourage humility in Bible study?

- How can you depend on the Holy Spirit for understanding?



Pray

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grasp God's truth.



Key Takeaway

True understanding of Scripture comes through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, not human wisdom alone.

Day 08

Reading With Context

Pulling one thread can unravel a whole sweater... and taking a Bible verse out of context can unravel God's message. In this message, we explore **2 Timothy 2:15** to discover how reading the Bible in context helps us handle God's Word correctly, understand the bigger story, and avoid misinterpretation. Learn how to zoom out, see the weave, and read Scripture the way God intended.

Sermon Message

Watch the video by scanning the QR code below with a smartphone.



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<https://columbusevangelicalchurc.subspla.sh/hzb6rt2>

Day 09

Noble Hearts, Eager Minds

Theme of the Week: Reading With Context

The Bereans remind us that spiritual maturity involves both eagerness and discernment. Approaching the Bible with curiosity and careful examination allows God's truth to take root deeply in our hearts.

Scripture Passage: Acts 17:11

Look Closer

- What two attitudes characterize the Bereans?



Passage Context

The book of Acts tells the story of the early church's growth as the gospel spreads through the power of the Holy Spirit from Jerusalem to the wider Roman world. In Acts 17:11, Paul and Silas have just arrived in Berea after facing fierce opposition in Thessalonica, and they begin teaching in the synagogue. The Bereans are highlighted as being noble because they eagerly receive the message but carefully examine the Scriptures daily to verify that Paul's teaching is true.

Consider the Meaning

- Why is examining Scripture an important practice?

- What does this teach about responding to teaching or preaching?



Seeing Jesus

The Scriptures the Bereans searched ultimately pointed them to Christ.

Live It Out

- How can you cultivate a habit of examining Scripture regularly?



Pray

Ask God to give you a love for searching the Scriptures.



Key Takeaway

Faithful engagement with Scripture requires both eagerness and a commitment to examine it carefully.

Day 10

Guarding Against Misuse

Theme of the Week: Reading With Context

Jesus shows that even Scripture can be misused if taken out of context. By studying the Bible carefully and relying on God's wisdom, we can protect ourselves from deception and rightly apply His Word.

Scripture Passage: Matthew 4:5-7

Look Closer

- How does the devil use Scripture in this temptation?



Passage Context

This scene takes place during Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, where the devil tests Him after a period of fasting. The devil quotes Psalm 91 to tempt Jesus, but he subtly distorts its meaning by pulling it out of context. Psalm 91 is a poetic expression of God's protection for those who trust in Him and walk in His ways—it's about faithful dependence, not a guarantee of safety in every situation or a license to act recklessly. By urging Jesus to jump from the temple, the devil twists the passage into a test of God's faithfulness, turning a promise meant to encourage trust into a pretext for forcing God to prove Himself, which is exactly what Jesus rejects.

Consider the Meaning

- What does Jesus demonstrate about interpreting Scripture?



Seeing Jesus

Jesus models for us the importance of context as we interpret Scripture.

Live It Out

- Why is it important to understand Scripture in context?

- How can you guard against misusing Bible verses?



Pray

Ask God to help you handle His Word faithfully.



Key Takeaway

Understanding Scripture in context helps us respond faithfully rather than be misled.

11 Day

Your Turn in the Scriptures

Theme of the Week: Reading With Context

Today, you get your own Berean-style test! Just as Satan tried to twist Scripture to tempt Jesus, you are invited to carefully examine a verse in its full context and practice responding faithfully. Take time to read the passage, think critically, and let God guide your understanding, just like Jesus demonstrated in the wilderness. This is an exercise in discernment, helping you grow in both knowledge and obedience.

Scripture Passage: *"There is no God."* – Psalm 14:1



Passage Context

Wait what?!?... Does the Bible really say that?... Yes, this is a direct quote from the Bible, but this is also an example of how Scripture can be misquoted by removing context.

(Read all of Psalm 14:1 before continuing any further)

Look Closer

- Who is claiming "There is no God"?

Consider the Meaning

- Why is it dangerous to quote or read a verse in isolation?

- How does the full passage change the meaning of the statement?



Seeing Jesus

Jesus responds to tests with wisdom from the full context of Scripture.

Live It Out

- If someone quoted this verse out of context today, how could you respond faithfully?



Pray

Ask God to give you wisdom and discernment to rightly interpret His Word and respond faithfully, even when challenged.



Key Takeaway

Studying Scripture in context equips you to recognize twists, resist misinterpretation, and respond faithfully like Jesus.

12 Day

The Living God

Theme of the Week: Reading With Context

Today's passage shows how ungrounded assumptions can lead to misreading Scripture. Approaching the Bible with humility and attentiveness allows us to encounter the living God who speaks through His Word.

Scripture Passage: Matthew 22:23–33

Look Closer

- What two mistakes does Jesus say the Sadducees make?



Passage Context

In Matthew 22:23–33, the Sadducees (who deny the resurrection) approach Jesus with a hypothetical question to try to trap Him. Jesus responds by correcting their misunderstanding of both Scripture and God's power, explaining that life after the resurrection is different from earthly life. He then affirms the reality of the resurrection by pointing to God's declaration in Scripture that He is the God of the living, not the dead (Exodus 3:6), leaving the crowd astonished.

Consider the Meaning

- Why does Jesus say they misunderstand Scripture and God's power?



Seeing Jesus

Jesus affirms the resurrection, which will ultimately be demonstrated through His own resurrection.

Live It Out

- How can wrong assumptions affect how we read Scripture?

- What can help you approach God's Word with humility?



Pray

Ask God to correct misunderstandings in your thinking.



Key Takeaway

Humility and careful study help us understand Scripture and experience God's power.

13 Day

Wisdom in Context

Theme of the Week: Reading With Context

Sometimes reading Proverbs can feel confusing or contradictory, like today's verses. That's because context isn't just about the surrounding words; it also involves recognizing the type of writing we're reading. Proverbs is poetic, proverbial wisdom, not a legal code or universal promise. Identifying the type of writing we're reading in the Bible can help us see God's guidance clearly, so we can respond with discernment instead of frustration, and apply His wisdom faithfully in our daily lives.

Scripture Passage: Proverbs 26:4-5

Look Closer

- What two instructions are given about answering a fool?



Passage Context

The book of Proverbs is a collection of practical wisdom sayings that teach us how to live skillfully, honor God, and navigate everyday life with discernment. Though these two verses seem contradictory, together they show that wisdom requires knowing when to engage a fool and when to refrain, depending on the situation. This illustrates why understanding the type of writing—poetic, proverbial, narrative, prophetic, etc—is essential for correct interpretation.

Consider the Meaning

- Why might wisdom require different responses depending on the situation?

- What does this teach about applying biblical principles?



Seeing Jesus

Jesus demonstrates the wisdom of this passage in the Gospels. Sometimes Jesus will answer questions directly, at other times He'll respond to a question with a question of His own, and He even remains silent at times when asked a question.

Live It Out

- When might it be wise to respond—or remain silent?



Pray

Ask God to give you wisdom in how you respond to others.



Key Takeaway

Identifying the type of writing contained in a passage can help us interpret it correctly, so we can respond with wisdom instead of confusion.

14 Day

When Scripture Gets Misquoted

Theme of the Week: Reading With Context

Today's passage is one of the most frequently misquoted verses in the Bible. Many use Jesus' statement, "Do not judge" as a prohibition against giving any sort of advice or correction. But as we'll see, Jesus is actually addressing hypocritical judgment, not godly discernment. By reading the passage in its full context, we learn how to balance honesty with grace in our relationships.

Scripture Passage: *"Do not judge"* - Matthew 7:1-5

(Read all of Matthew 7:1-5 before continuing any further)

Look Closer

- What warning does Jesus give about judging others?



Passage Context

In Matthew 7:1-5, Jesus is concluding His Sermon on the Mount, teaching His followers about authentic righteousness and how it should shape their interactions with others. He warns against hypocritical judgment, emphasizing that we must first examine and address our own faults before criticizing others. Using the metaphor of the "speck" and "plank," Jesus highlights the need for self-awareness and humility in relationships and spiritual life.

Consider the Meaning

- What kind of judgment is Jesus condemning?
- Why is self-examination necessary before correcting others?



Seeing Jesus

Jesus models and calls His followers to live with both honesty and grace.

Live It Out

- Where might you be quick to judge others?
- How does understanding the full context of "Do not judge" empower you to give Godly guidance instead of avoiding correction entirely?



Pray

Ask God to give you wisdom to discern rightly, courage to speak truth in love, and humility to examine your own heart first.



Key Takeaway

Understanding Scripture in context helps us see that "do not judge" warns against hypocrisy, not godly discernment, so we can lovingly guide others with humility.

15 Day

Reading With Jesus At The Center

Did you know the whole Bible points to Jesus? In this message, we explore **1 Peter 1:10-12** and **2 Peter 1:20-21** to see how Scripture has a dual authorship—human and divine—and how every story, law, and prophecy ultimately centers on Christ. Learn how reading the Bible with Jesus at the center transforms every passage from words on a page to life-changing revelation.

Sermon Message

Watch the video by scanning the QR code below with a smartphone.



-OR VISIT-

<https://columbusevangelicalchurc.subspla.sh/sxftbc3>

16 Day

Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament

Theme of the Week: Reading With Jesus at the Center

When we read Scripture, it's easy to see it as isolated stories or rules. But Jesus reminds us that every page ultimately points to Him, giving the Bible a unity and purpose that transforms how we read it.

Scripture Passage: Luke 24:27

Look Closer

- What does Jesus explain to the disciples?



Passage Context

The Gospel of Luke tells the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, emphasizing His compassion and the inclusion of people from all backgrounds in God's kingdom. After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appears on the road to Emmaus and explains to two of His disciples how the Scriptures pointed to His suffering and glory. Jesus shows them that the events of His death and resurrection were the fulfillment of God's plan revealed throughout the Old Testament.

17 Day

Finding Jesus Through Every Page

Theme of the Week: Reading With Jesus at the Center

Reading Scripture without recognizing Jesus is like following a map but never reaching the destination. Let this passage challenge you to approach God's Word with a heart ready to meet Him personally.

Scripture Passage: John 5:39–40

Look Closer

- What problem does Jesus identify?



Passage Context

In John 5:39–40, Jesus is addressing the Jewish leaders after He healed a man on the Sabbath, challenging their understanding of Scripture. He points out that although they diligently study the Scriptures, they fail to recognize that these writings testify about Him as the Savior. Jesus warns them that their exclusive focus on the individual statements of Scripture without recognizing its overall fulfillment in Him will lead them to reject the very life God offers.

Consider the Meaning

- How can someone study Scripture yet miss its central message?



Seeing Jesus

The Bible ultimately testifies about Jesus.

Live It Out

- How can you ensure your study of Scripture leads you to Christ?

- What does it mean to come to Jesus through His Word?



Pray

Ask God to help you see Christ clearly in Scripture.



Key Takeaway

Our diligent study of scripture will only lead to life when we encounter Jesus through it.

18 Day

Jesus at the Center of Creation

Theme of the Week: Reading With Jesus at the Center

The Bible points to Jesus because well... all of creation ultimately points to Him! When we recognize that Jesus is at the center of all creation—not just the Bible—it changes how we read Scripture and live our lives. This passage reveals how Jesus is the source, sustainer, and ultimate purpose of all things, including our own story.

Scripture Passage: Colossians 1:16–17

Look Closer

- What does this passage say Christ created?



Passage Context

Paul writes this letter to the church in Colossae to remind them of the ultimate supremacy of Jesus, countering false teachings that were threatening their faith. In Colossians 1:16–17, Paul emphasizes that everything was created through and for Jesus, and that He sustains all things by His power. Therefore Jesus is not only at the center of the Bible's story, but the center of all creation.

Consider the Meaning

- What does this reveal about Jesus' identity?



Seeing Jesus

The Bible ultimately testifies about Jesus.

Live It Out

- How should recognizing Christ as the center of all creation shape how you read Scripture?

- What areas of life might still need to be submitted to Him?



Pray

Praise Jesus for His authority over all creation.



Key Takeaway

Jesus is at the center of all creation, and recognizing Him as the source and sustainer of everything helps us see Scripture and our lives through His perspective.

19 Day

The Suffering Servant Revealed

Theme of the Week: Reading With Jesus at the Center

Sometimes the Old Testament speaks of Jesus so clearly that we can see Him directly described and predicted, even centuries before His birth. As you read Isaiah 53, notice how the suffering servant's story mirrors Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—and let this deepen your gratitude and awe for what He has done for you personally.

Scripture Passage: Isaiah 53:1-12

Look Closer

- What does the servant do for others?



Passage Context

The book of Isaiah contains prophecies of judgment and hope, calling God's people to faithfulness while revealing God's plan for redemption through the coming Savior. In Isaiah 53, the prophet Isaiah describes the suffering servant, who bears the sins of others and brings healing through his suffering, pointing forward to the redemptive work of the Savior.

Consider the Meaning

- Why was the servant's suffering necessary?



Seeing Jesus

Jesus directly fulfills this ancient prophecy through His suffering and death.

Live It Out

- How does recognizing that Jesus' suffering was planned long before His birth affect your gratitude for Him personally?

- How might this passage encourage you to trust God's larger plan, even when life feels painful or confusing?



Pray

Thank Jesus for bearing your sins.



Key Takeaway

Jesus is directly described and predicted in the Bible's prophetic writings, showing that God's plan of salvation has always been centered on Him.

Day 20

Encountering God's Presence

Theme of the Week: Reading With Jesus at the Center

Sometimes Jesus isn't directly named, but His presence is there in subtle ways, like through a mysterious human-like figure in the Old Testament referred to as "the angel of the Lord". As you read this passage, imagine standing on holy ground yourself and ask God to help you notice His presence and hear Him speak, just as Moses did—because Jesus is always near, even when we don't fully recognize Him yet.

Scripture Passage: Exodus 3:1-6

Look Closer

- Who does Moses see within the flames of the burning bush?
- How does God identify Himself to Moses?



Passage Context

The book of Exodus tells the story of God delivering the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt and establishing His relationship with them. In Exodus 3, Moses encounters God at the burning bush while tending sheep on Mount Horeb, marking the beginning of his calling to lead Israel out of Egypt. God reveals His identity to Moses and the holiness of His presence, commanding Moses to remove his sandals as a sign of reverence.

Consider the Meaning

- What does this passage reveal about God's holiness and presence?



Seeing Jesus

In the Old Testament, there is a unique figure referred to as “the angel of the Lord.” The identity of this figure has been discussed for centuries because He appears unlike any other angel in Scripture. In several passages, the angel of the Lord speaks and acts in ways that are indistinguishable from God Himself, carrying divine authority and even receiving responses meant for God alone. Because of this, many scholars and theologians believe these encounters may be pre-incarnate appearances of Jesus, offering early glimpses of how God would personally reveal Himself to His people. Some key examples include Genesis 16:7–13; Genesis 22:11–18; Exodus 23:20–23; Judges 6:11–24; Judges 13:3–22; and Zechariah 3:1–7.

Live It Out

- How does realizing Jesus is always near—even when you don't fully see Him—change the way you approach prayer or Scripture reading?



Pray

Ask God to help you recognize His holiness and presence in your daily life, and to give you courage to respond faithfully to His calling.



Key Takeaway

Jesus is often alluded to in the Old Testament, inviting us to look carefully for His presence and guidance in every passage.

Day 21

Where is Jesus in this Passage?

Theme of the Week: Reading With Jesus at the Center

Now it's your turn to practice seeing Jesus in the Old Testament. This passage gives you a hands-on way to begin noticing Him in Scripture and to respond with faith and trust in His provision today.

Scripture Passage: Numbers 21:4–9



Passage Context

The book of Numbers records Israel's wilderness journey, highlighting God's faithfulness despite His people's ongoing complaints and disobedience. In Numbers 21:4–9, the Israelites are journeying to the Promised Land and grow impatient and complain against God and Moses, prompting God to send venomous snakes as a consequence. When the people repent, God instructs Moses to make a bronze serpent, and those who look at it are healed, demonstrating God's mercy and provision.



Seeing Jesus

Where is Jesus in this passage?

*(Read **John 3:12–17** before continuing any further)*

Look Closer

- What happens when people look at the serpent?

Consider the Meaning

- How does this story encourage trust in God's provision?

- What does this story teach us about looking to Jesus in faith?

Live It Out

- What does it mean to look to God for salvation?



Pray

Thank God for providing salvation through Christ.



Key Takeaway

Learning to see Jesus in Scripture is a skill we develop by actively looking for Him and trusting Him, just like the Israelites trusted God's provision.

Day 22

Moving From Reading to Living

Reading the Bible is just the start—living it is the goal. In this message, we explore how to move from understanding Scripture to applying it in everyday life. Learn key insights for turning observation and interpretation into action, keeping your applications centered on Jesus, and using Godly wisdom to make your faith practical and transformative.

Sermon Message

Watch the video by scanning the QR code below with a smartphone.



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<https://columbusevangelicalchurc.subspla.sh/ycjbb8q>

Day 23

Built on the Rock

Theme of the Week: Moving From Reading to Living

It's possible to hear Jesus' words regularly and still build our lives on something else. This passage invites us to examine whether we're simply listening or actually building our lives on Him through obedience—because the difference only becomes obvious when the storms come.

Scripture Passage: Matthew 7:24–27

Look Closer

- What determines whether the house stands?



Passage Context

In Matthew 7:24–27, Jesus is concluding the Sermon on the Mount with a call to not just hear His words but put them into practice. He uses the illustration of two builders—one wise and one foolish—to show the difference between obedience and mere hearing. The passage emphasizes that a life built on obedience to Jesus will stand firm through trials, while a life that ignores His teaching will ultimately collapse.

Consider the Meaning

- What does the rock represent?



Seeing Jesus

Jesus Himself is the foundation for a secure life.

Live It Out

- What foundation is your life built upon?

- What teaching of Jesus do you need to practice?



Pray

Ask God to help you build your life on His truth.



Key Takeaway

A life built on Jesus is not formed by simply hearing His words, but by putting them into practice.

Day 24

Blessed to Obey

Theme of the Week: Moving From Reading to Living

It's easy to admire Jesus, talk about Jesus, or even feel inspired by Jesus—but He makes it clear that true blessing is found in obedience. This challenges us to move beyond appreciation and into action, where His Word begins to shape how we actually live.

Scripture Passage: Luke 11:27-28

Look Closer

- What does Jesus emphasize as true blessing?



Passage Context

Jesus is teaching the crowds and has just confronted spiritual opposition, including accusations about His authority. A woman in the crowd praises Jesus' mother for her association to Him, but Jesus redirects the focus to something greater. He emphasizes that true blessedness comes not from mere physical association with Him, but from hearing and obeying the word of God.

25 Day

Let the Word Dwell

Theme of the Week: Moving From Reading to Living

God's Word isn't meant to be something we visit occasionally—it's meant to dwell within us, shaping our thoughts, attitudes, and relationships. When Scripture fills our lives, it naturally overflows into how we speak, worship, and encourage others.

Scripture Passage: Colossians 3:16

Look Closer

- What does Paul say should dwell richly in believers?



Passage Context

Paul is instructing believers on how to live out their new life in Christ within the Christian community. This verse fits within a larger section calling the church to put off old behaviors and cultivate Christlike character in their relationships and gatherings.

Consider the Meaning

- How does Scripture shape worship and community?



Seeing Jesus

The message about Christ should fill the lives of believers.

Live It Out

- How can you fill your life with God's Word?

- How might Scripture encourage others around you?



Pray

Ask God to let His Word dwell richly in your life.



Key Takeaway

When God's Word fills your life, it begins to shape everything you say and do.

Day 26

From Mirror to Movement

Theme of the Week: Moving From Reading to Living

God's Word reveals what's true about us, but it doesn't stop there—it invites a response. If we walk away unchanged, it's not because God's Word lacked power, but because we chose not to act on what we've received.

Scripture Passage: James 1:22–25

Look Closer

- What promise is given to those who obey?



Passage Context

The book of James calls believers to live out a practical, active faith marked by obedience, wisdom, and consistency between what they believe and how they live. In James 1:22–25, James is exhorting believers to live out genuine faith by responding actively to God's word rather than merely listening to it. He uses the analogy of a mirror to show that hearing without doing leads to self-deception, while obedience leads to transformation and blessing.

Consider the Meaning

- What does the mirror represent?

- Why is obedience necessary after hearing God's Word?



Seeing Jesus

Jesus calls His followers to live out His teachings.

Live It Out

- What truth from Scripture do you need to act on?

- What step could you take today?



Pray

Ask God to help you live out His Word.



Key Takeaway

God's Word is meant to transform us, not just inform us.

Day 27

Faith That Moves

Theme of the Week: Moving From Reading to Living

Faith isn't just something we believe internally—it's something that shows up in how we live externally. When we truly trust Jesus, it will naturally overflow into practical love, compassion, and action toward others.

Scripture Passage: James 2:14–17

Look Closer

- What question does James raise about faith?



Passage Context

In James 2:14–17, James addresses a misunderstanding of faith by challenging the idea that a healthy faith can exist apart from real-life action. He uses a practical example of someone in need to show that words without compassionate deeds are empty and ineffective. The passage emphasizes that genuine faith will produce visible life change through tangible works.

Consider the Meaning

- What kind of faith is James criticizing?

- How do faith and works relate?



Seeing Jesus

Genuine faith in Christ produces a transformed life.

Live It Out

- How can your faith be demonstrated through practical love?



Pray

Ask God to produce active faith in your life.



Key Takeaway

Genuine faith in Jesus is powerful and always results in visible actions.

Day 28

Practice What You've Learned

Theme of the Week: Moving From Reading to Living

Spiritual growth doesn't come from knowing more—it comes from living out what we already know. As we take small, consistent steps of obedience, we begin to experience the peace and presence of God in deeper and more tangible ways.

Scripture Passage: Philippians 4:9

Look Closer

- What four actions does Paul mention regarding his teaching?



Passage Context

The book of Philippians is a letter from Paul encouraging believers to live with joy, unity, and Christ-centered humility even in the midst of difficult circumstances. In Philippians 4:9, Paul is concluding his letter by urging the Philippians to put into practice the teachings and example they have received from him. He emphasizes that faithful obedience to these truths leads to experiencing the peace and presence of God in their daily lives.

Consider the Meaning

- Why is practice essential in the Christian life?

- How does obedience relate to experiencing God's peace?



Seeing Jesus

Christian teaching ultimately points to following Christ.

Live It Out

- What truth from Scripture do you need to put into practice?



Pray

Ask God to help you live what you have learned.



Key Takeaway

God's peace is experienced as we put His truth into practice in our daily lives.

Keep Going...

Over the past few weeks, you've been building a set of tools to help you read the Bible well. You've learned how to approach Scripture with the right posture, understand it in context, see Jesus at the center, and ultimately move from reading to living. But this isn't the finish line—it's the starting point.

The goal has never been just to complete a devotional series. The goal is a life that is continually shaped by God's Word. Real growth happens not in a moment, but through consistent rhythms of reading, understanding, and applying Scripture over time.

What's Next?

1. Keep the Rhythm Going

Don't let this be the end of your Bible reading habit. Choose a book of the Bible and **continue practicing** what you've learned:

- Approach with humility and a desire to know God
- Read in context
- Look for Jesus
- Ask, "How do I live this out today?"

2. Go Deeper with More Resources

If you're ready to take the next step, we've made it easy for you. Scan the QR code to access a library of Bible studies, teachings, and devotionals through **RightNow Media**. These resources can help you continue growing in your understanding and application of Scripture.



–OR VISIT –

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/columbussec>

3. Don't Do This Alone

One of the best ways to grow is to walk with others. Consider inviting a friend, family member, or someone from church to:

- Go through this devotional series together
- Read a book of the Bible side by side
- Talk about what you're learning and how you're applying it

Sometimes the next step in your growth isn't just learning more—it's helping someone else take their first step.



We want to help make this easy, on the following pages you'll find **discussion questions** that you can use to start up a conversation

4. Put It Into Practice

Remember what you saw in the final days of this series: transformation happens when we actually live out what we read. **Start small, but be intentional.** Ask yourself regularly: "What is one thing God is calling me to do with what I've read?" And then take that step.

A Final Encouragement

God's Word is not just something to study—it's something to live. As you continue reading, keep coming back to this simple truth:

*The goal of the Bible isn't more information,
it's transformation.*

And as you walk this out, trust that God will meet you in it—guiding you, shaping you, and drawing you closer to Himself.

Week 1: Discussion Guide

Theme of the Week: Reading With the Right Posture



Key Takeaway

How you read the Bible starts with the posture of your heart.

Discussion Questions:

- What was your biggest takeaway about your posture toward Scripture this week?
- How does loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind shape your reading of the Bible?
- Peter compares spiritual growth to a newborn craving milk. How can we cultivate that craving for God's Word today?
- Paul says transformation comes through renewing the mind. How can your thinking be transformed by Scripture this week?
- Psalm 119 shows delight in God's Word. What distracts you from delighting in Scripture, and how can you overcome it?

Application Challenge:

Pick one habit to cultivate a posture of hunger for God's Word this week. Examples: journaling, memorizing a verse, or reading meditatively.

Week 2: Discussion Guide

Theme of the Week: Reading With Context



Key Takeaway

Context keeps God's Word from unraveling in our hands.

Discussion Questions:

- How did the Bereans inspire you to examine Scripture for yourself (Acts 17:11)?
- How have you seen Scripture misapplied, and how can context prevent this?
- How did the Day 11 "test" help you practice discerning Scripture like Jesus did?
- Jesus corrected the Sadducees' misunderstandings. Are there assumptions you bring to Scripture that need correction?
- Proverbs can seem contradictory. How does recognizing the literary style help you apply it accurately?
- Day 14 challenged the "Do not judge" misquote. How does understanding context affect your discernment?

Application Challenge:

Pick one passage this week to explore context: consider surrounding verses, literary style, and original audience. Share your insights with someone else.

Week 3: Discussion Guide

Theme of the Week: Reading With Jesus at the Center



Key Takeaway

Human authors wrote it, God inspired it,
Jesus fulfills it.

Discussion Questions:

- How does seeing Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament (Luke 24:27) change the way you read books like Genesis or Exodus?
- John 5:39–40 warns that Scripture ultimately points to Jesus. How can you keep Christ central in your study?
- Colossians 1:16–17 shows Jesus at the center of creation. How does this change how you view your purpose and the world?
- Isaiah 53 points to Christ's suffering. How does prophecy fulfillment deepen your worship and gratitude?
- Exodus 3 gives an example of Jesus as the Angel of the Lord. How might recognizing Him in unexpected places encourage your faith?
- Numbers 21 challenges you to look for Christ. How can you intentionally notice Jesus throughout Scripture?

Application Challenge:

Pick one Old Testament passage and identify how it points to Jesus—prophetically, symbolically, or through foreshadowing. Share your observation with someone this week.

Week 4: Discussion Guide

Theme of the Week: Moving From Reading to Living



Key Takeaway

The goal of Bible study isn't simply knowledge, it's transformation.

Discussion Questions:

- Matthew 7:24–27 compares life built on obedience to a house on the rock. How firm is your foundation today?
- Luke 11:27–28 emphasizes obedience over admiration. What area of your life requires action instead of just understanding?
- Colossians 3:16 encourages letting Christ's message dwell richly in community. How does Scripture shape your relationships?
- James 1:22–25 warns against self-deception. Are there areas where you hear God's Word but don't act?
- James 2:14–17 emphasizes faith in action. How does your faith show itself practically?
- Philippians 4:9 encourages modeling what you've learned. Who can you encourage or walk alongside as you apply God's Word?

Application Challenge:

Identify one teaching from this series and take a concrete step to put it into practice this week. Invite a friend or family member to join you if possible.

Notes

