



HOME CHURCH, PART 4: TEACHING

This week, we conclude our midweek Home Church series. Building on the foundations for the early church in Acts 2 of **Fellowship, Communion,** and **Prayer,** we end with **Teaching.**

Although this is focused on the family unit in this season, please apply the principles to your unique situation. Some of you live alone or apart from family, but we encourage you to practice being actively engaged with your friends or community, using technology tools when required or necessary!

Apostles' Teaching, Holy Scripture, Divine Truth

The “Apostles' Teaching” (also known as doctrine or scripture) is what the Acts 2 church was all about. They "devoted" themselves to it. They took great care to study and dwell in it.

The key to a deep, rich, spiritual life is found in a devoted life of prayer and study of scripture. Every spiritual giant throughout history devoted themselves to prayer and scripture.

Last week, I spoke about abiding in prayer. Scripture is the other side of the coin, you can't have one without the other.

There is often an unhealthy balance for some Christians. Some elevate scripture to a level of deity, while others reduce it to a simple self-help book.

Scripture is just a part of what Acts 2 is talking about. **The early church wanted Divine Truth through a special revelation of Jesus.** Remember, they only had the Old Testament at this point.

Everyone is looking for not just truth, but Divine Truth, a God-infused-truth that brings life, hope, and direction.



Every person on earth has God placed in their consciousness (Romans 2:15, Ecclesiastes 3:11). Think about that! Every person! Your neighbor and the person passing you in the grocery store. Every person you have ever met! Each person innately begins a search for truth. (This is called *general revelation*.) Some find truth in intellect, some in science, some in religion, but all begin a search for divine truth. However, a general revelation of God is not enough to bring someone to salvation.

When the word became flesh (John 1:1), the truth was manifest. We needed a special revelation of divine truth, which was and is given through scripture, angels, prophets, dreams, and visions, but most importantly, Jesus Himself. If we read scripture and miss Jesus, we have missed the truth. (This is called *specific or special revelation*.)

Divine truth is not only given through scripture, but by special revelation of Jesus. Not many are keenly aware of the angels they see, their prophetic gifting, or understanding of dreams and visions. Scripture is the most user-friendly way (for lack of a better word) to access a special revelation of truth.

Scripture is God-Breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 115:105

No special revelation will ever contradict God's Word.

Scripture is not a self-help book. We are not using the bible to help make ourselves better. Scripture is about the work and person of Jesus Christ that leads us into salvation. Into belief of His work on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. Along with confession of sin, this is what brings us into salvation, not just belief that there is a God.



Jesus is the source of truth. Scripture is one of the ways we are pointed to him. Devote yourself to it. It will feed your spirit. It will arm you and equip you with promises and with knowledge of God and His character. It will become your anchor in the storm, arrows in your quiver, and tools in your toolbox.

If you don't spend time reading scripture, you cannot gain biblical knowledge.

If our knowledge is not rooted in scripture, it is rooted in something else. Scripture is truth. Therefore it has no bias and cannot be tainted. Your source must be Jesus. If you are receiving your truth from any source other than Him (yes, including podcasts!), your truth is messed up.

Where is your source of knowledge? Did you find it in a book, on the news, on the Internet, through a person? Is it through your own intellect? How much time do you spend connected to the source? Do you have a Bible reading plan?

Go to the source!

He is The Way, The Truth, and The Life (John 14:6). He is Love (1 John 4:8).

Share the source with others.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
Romans 10:14-15

How to Lead Your Home Church in the Study of Scripture

(Start with you; you can't lead where you haven't been.)

- Get a bible reading plan and read it! (I think you have heard this before!)
 - Keep a pen and journal to write things down that God reveals to you as you read.
 - Download the "Blue Letter Bible" app. This allows you to look up original words in the Greek, which gives deeper meaning and context to what you are reading.
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- Enjoy it! If what you are reading is not particularly "interesting," skim read that portion. It's better to keep your routine than give up.
- Stick with it! Keep the rhythm. We are not perfect. If you miss a day, that's ok. Skip the day you missed and move to the next day!

Home Church as a Family

- With younger kids:
 - Read them the Psalms and Proverbs in the Message translation.
 - I have been reading Psalms 91 to my kids and it has been awesome!
- With older kids
 - Encourage them to have a bible reading plan.
 - Listen to an audio bible. There are tons of apps out there.
- With a spouse, friend, or neighbor
 - Read the same plan and talk about the things that stuck out.

Remember, you are not alone out there. I am always happy to help you and answer any questions. This is the greatest season for the church. I'm excited to see the Lord working and using you to grow and strengthen your Home Church.

Love you guys,

Danny
