

onechurch

bigIdea

How do we read the Bible? Why do we read the Bible? We can read the Bible for information. We can read the Bible for inspiration. We can read the Bible because we think we are supposed to. We can read the Bible to find out what God wants us to do. There are lots of reasons why we read the Bible. Even though all of those are good reasons, they are not God's reason. We should focus on reading the Bible as a way to allow God to transform who we are. Just like the best food strengthens the body and enriches life, God wants us to read the Bible so we are drawn closer to Him and our relationship with Him is strengthened and enriched.



BIG IDEA: In order to grow as Christians, the Bible must become a crucial part of who we are.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If your brain were an internet search engine, what are some of the top 10 topics you are thinking about?
2. Share some common phrases, quotes, sayings, or proverbs that you find yourself repeating?
3. When you think of the Bible,

You have heard the saying, "You are what you eat." Ludwig Andreas Feuerbach (1804-1872), a German philosopher and anthropologist coined that phrase. Although it sounds like an advertisement for organic foods, Feuerbach meant that what we ingest, affects how we think, study, believe, act, etc.

4. So, what have you been 'eating' (reading, watching, listening to) lately?
5. *Read Matthew 4:1-11.* Does it surprise you that the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted? How do you understand this when comparing James 1:13-14?
6. For each of the three temptations:
 - a. What is its nature?
 - b. What potentially might appeal to Jesus?
 - c. What price would there be were He to yield?
 - d. How does Jesus respond?
7. What human need is at the heart of each temptation?
8. What book of the Bible does Jesus use to refute the devil every time?
9. If the success of your spiritual life was dependent upon your knowledge of the book of Deuteronomy, how successful would you be?

In this week's study, Jesus shows us how the Bible plays a crucial role in helping us to become more like Him. Jesus quotes the Bible all the time. What's interesting about that is when He was walking around on earth, the Bible was only half written. All He had was the Old Testament. And He didn't just quote it; He understood it and applied it to everyday situations. Jesus knows that "eating" the Word of God is one of the most relevant and life-giving disciplines a person can do.

"Eating" the Bible is not just about studying and memorizing, it's about discovering who God is. The Bible represents a great Revelation of the nature of God; they are His own words that share the story of His purpose and relationship with his creation, and especially humankind. Hence, we call the Bible God's Word. Thinking like Jesus is a matter of experiencing the Word of God: reading it, understanding it, applying it, and using it to make Christ-centered decisions. Perhaps most importantly, experiencing the Bible helps us to know God intimately.

10. What is your reaction to the idea of studying, reading and "eating" the Bible?
 - a. I don't feel smart enough for the Bible.
 - b. I need some help understanding it.
 - c. I know I should be reading it, but can't find the time.
 - d. I Love the Bible.
 - e. I have been learning about the Bible my whole life.
 - f. Other _____

GOING DEEPER

1. Read *Matthew 7:24-27*. When it comes to every-day-life decisions in your work, relationships, families, etc., do you ever ask yourself, “I wonder what the Bible would say about this decision?” If so, why? If not, why not?
2. Is there anything other than the Bible that Christ-followers should use to make decisions?
3. What are some other things you’ve heard people use as their foundations for life decisions?
4. Many people wonder, “Is the Bible relevant to me?” What kind of relevant “life issues” have you found addressed in the pages of the Bible?
5. Pick one of the following statements from the following verses that is most motivating or meaningful to you. Share why you picked this one. *2 Timothy 3:16. Psalm 119:89. Matthew 24:35. Revelation 22:19. Psalm 12:6.*

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Will you take the New Thru 30 Challenge? Go to www.youversion.com and start the new reading plan New Thru 30. This reading plan will take you through the entire New Testament in 30 days, and will stretch your heart and mind. On the heading above, click on *Bible > Reading Plans* and scroll down to the *New Thru 30 Plan*. Click *Start This Plan*, and let the ‘eating of this book’ begin!!



CHANGING YOUR MIND

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘People do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Matthew 4:4

NEW THRU 30 READING PLAN

Day	Date	Bible
Saturday	9/3	Grace Day
Sunday	9/4	Grace Day
Monday	9/5	Matthew 1:1 - Matthew 12:50
Tuesday	9/6	Matthew 13:1 - Matthew 23:39
Wednesday	9/7	Matthew 24:1 - Matthew 28:20; Acts 1:1 - Acts 4:37
Thursday	9/8	Acts 5:1 – Acts 15:41
Friday	9/9	Acts 16:1 – Acts 28:31
Saturday	9/10	Grace Day
Sunday	9/11	Grace Day

