

Lesson 1 Outline: Women of the Word, Chapters 1–2 | October 14, 2026

Main Idea:

The Bible is not primarily a book about us. It is a book about God, given so that we may know Him truly, love Him deeply, and live in obedience to Him.

Opening Thought:

Many believers know that reading the Bible is important, but not everyone has been taught how to read it well. Often, we approach Scripture looking for instruction, encouragement, answers, or help with our circumstances. Those are good things, but they are not the primary purpose of Bible study.

Key Question:

Why do you study the Bible?

Common reasons:

- To find encouragement
- To make decisions
- To gain wisdom
- To grow spiritually
- To know how to live as a believer
- Because it is part of a routine

A better starting point:

Study the Bible first to know God.

Chapter 1: Turning Things Around

1. The Bible is not primarily about me.

We often read Scripture by asking:

- What does this say about my life?
- How can I apply this?
- What does this mean for my situation?

Instead, we should first ask:

- What does this teach me about God?

Examples:

- David and Goliath is not first about the giants we face, but about God's power and faithfulness.
- Jesus calming the storm is not first about our storms, but about Jesus' authority, power, and identity.

2. Scripture reveals God.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 teaches that all Scripture is breathed out by God and is useful for teaching, correction, training, and equipping.

John 1:1–4 shows that Jesus is the Word. Scripture reveals who God is and points us to Christ.

3. We cannot truly love a God we do not know.

Our emotions about God must be rooted in truth about God.

Matthew 22:37–38 reminds us to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

Romans 12:2 teaches that transformation begins with the renewing of the mind.

Important truth:

The heart cannot love what the mind does not know.

4. Mind before heart.

Bible study should not be based only on feelings. We use our minds to know God rightly, and that truth shapes our hearts, worship, and obedience.

Chapter 2: The Case for Bible Literacy

1. We can love the Bible and still not know it well.

It is possible to:

- Have favorite verses but not understand their context
- Listen to lessons or sermons without reading Scripture personally
- Know Christian phrases without knowing the biblical truth behind them
- Feel strongly about Scripture while having a weak understanding of it

2. Biblical literacy matters.

If we do not know God's Word, we are more vulnerable to misunderstanding it or being misled.

The goal is not to become scholars, but to become women who understand God's Word accurately and deeply.

3. The Bereans are an example.

Acts 17:11–12 says the Bereans received the word eagerly and examined the Scriptures daily to see if what Paul taught was true.

This shows biblical maturity:

- Receive teaching with eagerness
- Examine Scripture personally
- Test what is taught by God's Word

4. Do not let substitutes replace Scripture.

Helpful resources can include:

- Devotionals
- Christian books
- Podcasts
- Bible studies
- Lessons
- Social media content
- Teaching from others

These can be good if they are biblically faithful, but they should never replace personally knowing Scripture.

Practical Example: Philippians 4:13

Verse:

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Common misunderstanding:

God will help me accomplish anything I want to do.

Context:

Paul is talking about contentment in both plenty and need.

Better understanding:

Christ gives strength to remain faithful and content in every circumstance.

Lesson:

Context helps us understand what Scripture actually means instead of making it say what we want it to say.

Three Questions to Ask When Reading the Bible

1. What does this teach me about God?

Look for:

- His character
- His holiness
- His faithfulness
- His mercy
- His justice
- His power
- His promises
- His purposes

2. What does this passage actually mean?

Before jumping to application:

- Read the surrounding verses
- Consider the context
- Ask what the author is communicating
- Pay attention to what the passage is really saying

3. How should knowing this change me?

After understanding the truth about God, ask:

- How should this change my thinking?
- How should this affect my worship?
- How should this shape my choices?
- How should this impact my relationships?
- How should this lead me to obedience?

Application for the Week

When you open your Bible, begin by praying:

“God, show me who You are.”

Then:

- Read carefully
- Ask questions
- Pay attention
- Do not rush
- Look for what is true about God
- Respond in worship and obedience

Final Thought:

The goal of Bible study is not simply to know more Bible verses. The goal is to know God more truly and fully. As we know Him more, we love Him more deeply, and His Word increasingly shapes how we live.

Reflection Questions

1. What are some ways you have used the Bible as if it were mainly about you?
2. How does seeing the Bible as a book primarily about God change the way you read it?
3. How often do you measure the strength of your faith by the strength of your feelings?
4. Why is it dangerous to claim to love God without making an effort to know Him through His Word?
5. When have you felt aware of your lack of biblical knowledge?
6. What Bible study habits may need to change as you grow in biblical literacy?