
SUMMARY

This is the last message in our series on the Bible. Here we primarily cover Psalm 1 which paints a picture of the ideal Bible reader. As we wrap up this series our hope is that you would make reading the Bible regularly a priority for your life.

GROUP QUESTIONS *(For use with your family, roommates, Community or Bible Group, or individually)*

Share something from the message or passages that surprised, encouraged, or troubled you.

Read Psalm 1. What is the author saying in verse 1?

Discuss verse 2. What does the ideal Bible reader look like? What is the Biblical idea of “meditation” and how is it different from our culture’s concept of meditation?

Discuss the following reminders/helps for meditation. Which ones are helpful for you? What might you add to this list?

1. Remember that the Bible is an ancient **text** telling one epic **story** that has **power** for our lives today.
2. Remember that all of Scripture is one story that leads to Jesus.
3. Consider that the Biblical authors are often drawing on words, images, concepts, and stories from other Biblical books (Intertextuality/“Cultural Library”).
4. Determine if a passage is prescriptive (prescribing something for all believers) or descriptive (describing something that happened in the Biblical story).
5. Ask questions of the text. (see Acts 17:11, ESV)
6. Beware of familiarity (Rainier Effect).
7. Remember that every word is intentional.
8. Respect the original authors.

Discuss verse 3-4. What is the result of meditating on God’s word? How does meditating on the Scriptures bring flourishing and prosperity to your life? (Consider the example Pastor Rob worked through on Mark 10.45)

What image of contrast is the Psalmist presenting?

What final warning and conclusion is given at the end of the Psalm (5-6)? Why is that important, especially considering this is wisdom literature?

Reflect and share on your own Bible reading practices. Do you meditate on the scripture? What might this look like for you?

(If you have time, consider the connections between Malachi 3-4 and Psalm 1-2).

Please email Pastor Rob with any questions rob@seasidechurch.com