



DISCIPLESHIP & SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Week 3: Scripture — Hearing God's Word

INTRODUCTION

The Bible isn't a book to be conquered or a checklist to complete. It's a living word, God speaking to us across centuries. Many of us read Scripture the way we read the news: quickly, looking for facts, moving on. But Scripture invites a different kind of engagement. It asks us to slow down, to listen, to let God's word reshape how we think. When we read Scripture this way, it becomes transformative.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Joshua 1:7-9 | Psalm 119:97-104 | 2 Timothy 3:16-17 | Hebrews 4:12

SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN

Joshua is told to "meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it." Meditation on Scripture is different from studying it. It's not about gathering information; it's about internalizing truth. When Joshua meditates on God's law, he gains courage. He sees that success isn't about military strategy; it's about obedience.

The psalmist says, "Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long." This isn't drudgery. The psalmist loves the word. Why? Because through it, the psalmist grows wiser than enemies, gains understanding, draws close to God. Scripture read contemplatively produces spiritual fruit.

Paul writes that all Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Scripture speaks to every area of life. It's not just for devotional moments; it shapes how we live, work, love, and serve. Every part of it matters.

Hebrews says God's word is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates. It reveals. It doesn't just inform us; it transforms us. When we open Scripture with openness to being changed, God meets us. He reshapes our thinking and, through that, our living.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's your current approach to Bible reading? Do you read to gather information, find comfort, or something else?

2. Joshua meditates on Scripture, and the psalmist loves God's law. How do these attitudes differ from seeing the Bible as a duty?

3. When have you experienced Scripture speaking directly to your situation? What made that encounter possible?

4. If Scripture is "living and active," how does that change the way you approach reading it?

5. What barriers keep you from engaging Scripture more deeply? What would change if you removed them?



APPLICATION

Reading Scripture is like learning a friend's story. At first, it's unfamiliar. You have to pay attention. But over time, you begin to recognize the patterns, the themes, the heart of the person. The same is true with Scripture. As you read it over time, you begin to recognize God's character, his values, his heart for his people.

There are many ways to read Scripture. Some people read a chapter a day. Others use a topical study. Some use lectio divina, a contemplative method where you read, meditate, respond, and contemplate. There's no one right way. What matters is that you're actually meeting God in it, not just checking a box.

When you struggle to understand a passage or when it challenges you, that's when growth happens. Don't gloss over the hard parts. Wrestle with them. Ask questions. Look for context. Bring them to trusted teachers. This kind of engaged reading, where you're willing to be changed, is where Scripture's power is released.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What's your favorite way to engage Scripture? Why does that method work for you?

2. Is there a passage that's shaped your faith? What made that passage come alive for you?

3. What passages challenge you? Why, and what would it look like to wrestle with them?

4. What barriers keep you from engaging Scripture more deeply? How could you remove one this week?

5. Based on your answer to question 3, what specific passage or topic do you need to lean into right now?



WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Choose the passage or topic from your answer to question 5. Read it daily this week (Psalm 23, John 15:1-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, or whatever you identified). Each day, ask yourself: What's standing out? What is God saying to me? How does this apply to my life today? Don't rush. Spend at least 5-10 minutes. Journal if that helps commit it to memory.