

SESSION SIX

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

WATCH *Session Six - Bible: Holding on to God's Word*

Big Idea

The Bible is God's Word. It's His voice, constant and unchanging, speaking to a culture and a world that is always moving fast. Sometimes, it may seem impossible in the middle of your busy schedule to make time for God. Here's the good news: holding on to God's Word is not as hard as you think. Start by using the First Fifteen approach. Give God the first 15 minutes of your day by spending five minutes in the Bible, five minutes in worship, and five minutes in prayer. If you take those simple steps, God will honour your commitment and the Word will put down roots in the heart of who you are. Make this time the foundation of your day and watch how quickly God uses it to transform your everyday life.

For the word of God is living 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

Think

What is the Bible to you? Has this week's teaching changed the way you view the Bible? If so, how?

Think about the First Fifteen approach. How could giving God the first of each day by starting every morning with five minutes in the Word, five minutes in worship, and five minutes in prayer make a difference to the rest of your day?

Have you seen your decisions and actions change by holding on to God's Word? How?

What's your experience with reading the Bible. What has worked well for you? What has not worked well for you?

Prayer Focus

This week, focus on praying that the Word of God would draw you into a more vibrant relationship with the Father.

Next Steps

Make a commitment to set the foundation of your life in God's Word. Find and use a study Bible in a translation that helps you understand the Word better.

Dedicate the first part of your day to Him by taking the First Fifteen approach.

Decide ahead of time that you will attend church each week so that you can hear the Word preached regularly.

Common Questions

What is the Bible?

The Bible is a collection of 66 ancient manuscripts. 66 separate 'books' written by 40 different authors. A whole books that come together to tell one bigger story. The bible is spilt into two sections. The Old Testament, meaning the old covenant or promise. Which is all about God's promise to Israel. Then there is the New Testament, which is God's promise to the World, based on the life of Jesus. Christians believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God.

For great teaching on this please see the series 'The Bible for Grown-Ups' by Andy Stanley. Available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRp2-AeYs9A

How do I get more from my Bible?

There are three great steps to take towards getting the most out of your Bible. First, accept its authority by receiving God's Word with an open heart and respond to His Word with obedience. Second, absorb its truths by hearing, reading, studying, memorising, and meditating on God's Word. Third, apply its principles. James 1:22 tells us plainly, "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

Why are there different translations/versions of the Bible?

The Bible was originally written in ancient Greek and Hebrew. Different translations exist because language is alive, constantly developing and changing. The truths in God's Word stay the same, but the words we use to communicate them effectively change along with the language. In the King James Version, you find a lot of "thees and thous." Those are fine, and accurate, but they aren't words we use anymore. The different versions of the bible are all just trying to communicate the exact same truths in ways that match up well with our modern language. God told His prophet in Habakkuk 2:2 to "write down the revelation and make it plain." The different translations are all taking the same truths and trying to make them plain.

What is the difference between the Old Testament and New Testament?

The Old Testament is the foundation. The New Testament is the fulfilment. God made promises in the Old Testament and keeps His promises in the New Testament. The Old Testament is about God making the world. The New Testament is about God saving the world. God's people in the Old Testament were Israel. God's people in the New Testament are the Church.

For More information please see the LifeSwitch E-Zine called Engaging with the Bible - <http://bit.ly/LifeSwitch01>.