

# DEEPER

## THE DISCIPLINE OF BIBLE STUDY



### ACCOUNTABILITY

- Did you take five minutes of solitude and silence each day this week? If not, why not? If so, how did it impact your week?

### INTRODUCTION

- Ask the group members if they have a favorite passage from the Bible, and why that particular passage is their favorite.
- God speaks to people through Scripture, and this exercise proves that!

### SERMON REVIEW

- Reading and studying the Bible is the primary spiritual discipline – fundamental to all of the others we've discussed.
- *What is the Bible?* It is God's Word, authoritative and true. 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that God inspired every word that was written.
- We believe that the Bible should lead and direct the reader, not the other way around.
- The Bible reveals who God is. In fact, it's the only *sure* way to know who he is!
- It's an accessible book, which you can touch, hold, read, and critique.
- It's like a library. 66 books by more than 40 authors, spanning 1500 years. Yet amazingly, they all tell a single, unified story.
- *Why study the Bible?* We listen to God by looking at the Bible.
- It tells us what is right, wrong, how to get right, and how to live right.
- *How do we study the Bible?*
- Get your Bible, get a journal or computer, and prepare yourself in prayer.
- Here's a four-step study method you can use:
  - *Read.* Do so systematically, with a reading plan.
  - *Examine.* The longer you look, the more you understand.
  - *Apply.* Here are some questions you can ask, after examining:
    - Sins to avoid?
    - Promises to keep?
    - Examples to follow?
    - Commands to obey?
    - Knowledge to obtain?
  - *Pray.* Especially in response to what you read.

## DISCUSSION

- Read 1 Peter 2:2-3. By reading this in the context of 1 Peter 1, it's clear that spiritual milk is equated with the Word of God. What does it mean to "crave" the Word as a newborn craves milk? What does this tell us about the Bible and ourselves?
- Why do we starve ourselves of the Word, even when we crave it?
- Why is it so important to satisfy this craving for the Word?
- Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- Some translations use the term "inspired" in verse 16, whereas others use the more literal "God-breathed" or "breathed out by God." How does that imagery affect your understanding of the Bible?
- Why is it important to know that *all* Scripture is inspired? What happens when you begin to consider some parts inspired, and others uninspired?
- What does verse 17 tell us about the Bible's utility?
- With verse 17 in mind, what should you do with the things that you read?

## CHALLENGE

- Study the Bible every day this week, using the *R.E.A.P.* method mentioned above. It only takes about 20-30 minutes!

## CLOSING PRAYER