

## Lesson Two: Reading the Bible

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### LESSON TWO Reading The Bible

In this lesson we will look at reading the Bible on your own. This can be daunting but you will begin to see God's truth now and more and more over time. Let's look at some pointers to help you see God in the Bible!



"The Importance of Studying the Bible"

Key Terms

With the help of the video at the 2:06 mark, try defining these terms in your words. Just do your best— no need to be perfect.

Devotions	Devotional
Bible Study	Exposition
Inductive Bible Study	"Live it Out"
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### DOODLES

The Importance of Knowing the Bible

A. Scripture forms our worldview by answering our biggest questions.

- Who is God?
- Who are we?
- What is important in life?
- How should we live?
- Why are we here?
- What is wrong with the world?

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B. We can know the parts of God's will that He reveals to us.

C. We learn God's standards

D. We have God's unchanging message.

Why Should We Study the Bible on our Own?

Reading on our own allows us to:

- Go at our own pace
- Focus and learn first-hand
- Accompany the Bible with prayer
- Have a time of personally approaching God in His word

Eight Blessings of Studying the Bible from Paul Tripp

1.God Consciousness: the constant reminder that God exists.

2.Self-Awareness: the constant reminder of how I am and my need for God.

3.Knowledge of God's Plan: "God works to rescue us from the claustrophobic confines of our little kingdoms of self and deliver us to his big Kingdom of glory and grace."

4.Personal Transformation: seeing God's grace work to change each one of us.

5.Gospel Worldview: understanding God, yourself, and your world in order to make decisions.

6.Street-Level Guidance: knowing how to respond to everyday issues and conversations.

7.Commitment to Ministry: reminding us of our call to and defining our methods of redemptive ministry in the lives of others.

8. A Deeper Love For Jesus: reminding us of Jesus's presence, plan, power, and promises.

### DOODLES

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**DOODLES** 

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Are any of those 9	roacone curprising	or encouraging to you?
Ale any of these o	reasons surprising (	of encouraging to you:

"Disregard the study of God and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder throughout life, blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you."

-J.I. Packer



"When You Open Your Bible"



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REFLECT

How does the idea of studying the Bible make you feel? What is exciting and what is intimidating to you?

It is necessary to have a good method when we read the Bible, especially on our own. We call our method of Bible reading "inductive Bible study" which means that we come to the text with an open mind and go where it leads. We let it build our understanding of God, ourselves, and our world by starting with the specifics of what it says and working toward the big picture or more general truth.

Our four stages of inductive Bible study are:

1. Preparation: am I ready to hear from the Lord?

- 2. Observation: what does it say?
- 3. Interpretation: what does it mean?
- 4. Application: what does it require?

### Good ways to misinterpret Scripture

- Expect to hear only what want to hear.
- Expect the God of Scripture to look like you.
- Expect everything you read to directly involve you.
- Expect the scripture to always support your decisions.
- Look for secret meanings only you have discovered.
- Accept only the interpretation you have always been comfortable with.
- Never study together with others.

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### Observation

At first we are just looking to see what the Bible says and take in the facts that are there. We are not looking for all the meanings right away. Some questions take a little extra learning but see what you can answer from just the part of the Bible you are looking at. At this point we are asking questions like:

- Who is talking or acting here?
- Who wrote this passage?
- Who was it first written to?
- What is going on?
- When is this in the Bible's storyline?
- What is said just before and after this passage? (This is called the context and is very important).

PRACTICE

We will do this together in class. What do you observe in the passage?

### DOODLES

At this point we can start asking questions about meaning. Later in your journey you will get comfortable asking and answering more questions but for now, focus on these:

What does this say about God?

Interpretation

- What does this say about me?
- What does this say about my world?
- What does this say about what happens when any of the above meet?

Especially at this point it is important to remember that you can interpret Scripture on your own but it takes learning and is helped by others who have more experience. Don't think of the Bible as a secretive book that you are not allowed to interpret but more like a complex piece of equipment that you need to learn to use well.

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## **LESSON TWO Reading The Bible**

	We will do this together in class. What interpretations can you
PRACTICE	make of the passage?

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will not forget your word.

### **DOODLES**

### Application

At this point we look at what the implications of our interpretation are.

- What did you see in the passage that makes a difference in you with-• out you having to doing anything at all?
- What are the implications of what this passage shows about God or people, maybe something about your standing with God? This is how the passage applies to you.
- How does that standing and status mean you should respond? What are the implications for your life? How would Jesus live your life in your situation?

**REMEMBER!** 

Look for who God is and what He is doing before asking what it means for you.

We need to look for what the passage says about us before we look for what it tells us to do.

1. How does this apply to me:

- What does this mean about me?
- Could be my identity or standing with God/how God sees me. (This concept will make more sense in a later lesson).

2. How do I apply this?

- What are the implications about how I need to live?
- How is God helping me do this?



There is no short-cut to getting to know the Bible - give it lots of time!

Start with what they Bible says, not with what you assume it says – let it guide you as it builds the picture for you.

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<b>FRESH FAITH</b>	LESSON TWO Reading The Bible
NOTES	<ul> <li>Try this framework for application:</li> <li>If this passage reveals that God, I should respond by</li> <li>This passage shows that God commands so needs to change in my life.</li> <li>I can do and will ask God to in my life.</li> </ul>
	We will do this together in class. What points of application do you see in the passage?         • If this passage reveals that God
DOODLES	What part(s) of Bible study seem most difficult to you? What are ways to make it more do-able?         DISCUSS             Image: Study seem most difficult to you? What are ways to make it more do-able?             Image: Study seem most difficult to you? What are ways to make it more do-able?             Image: Study seem most difficult to you? What are ways to make it more do-able?             Image: Study seem most difficult to you? What are ways to make it more do-able?             Image: Study seem most difficult to you? What are ways to make it more do-able?             Image: Study seem most difficult to you? What are ways to make it more do-able?             Image: Study seem most difficult to you? What are ways to make it more do-able?             Image: Study seem most difficult to you? What are ways to make it more do-able?             Image: Study seem most difficult to you? What are ways to make it more do-able?             Image: Study seem most difficult to you? Study seem most dit you? Study seem most difficult to you? Study seem most difficul

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### A "Raft" for Learning the Bible

Just as a raft is made of multiple pieces all connected together, we don't learn the Bible best through any one method. Try one of these and see what works for you.

- Preaching •
- Factual study (i.e. commentaries) •
- Solo reading •
- Memorization .
- **Devotional reading** •
- Discussion with others in the church
- Living according to the text (this is not so much a "method" as a vital aspect of really learning Scripture. There is no teacher like experience.

### Some Methods of Studying the Bible

- Journaling (Writing your thoughts or prayers on a passage) •
- Books •
- Quick Overview (maybe One Year Bible) •
- Audio Bible (Free on YouVersion App) •
- Chapter or pericope/paragraph a day •
- **Devotional books** •
- Verse memorization
- **Cross Referencing** .
- Hand Copying

### **Helpful Resources**

- Knowable Word, Peter Krol •
- Learn to Study the Bible, Andy Deane •
- Search the Scriptures, Alan M. Stibbs
- 30 Days to Understanding the Bible, Max Anders
- https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/ (Introductions to each book of the Bible)

Homework: Read a part of the Bible a little every day for a week.

Try to read in order without randomly flipping around. Don't worry about understanding everything, just get a feel for the text.

Psalms 119:15-16 (NLT) I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.

Psalms 119:15-16 (ESV) I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

#### Memory Verse: