



Study

Week of March 21, 2021

Intro Discussion Questions:

- *What did God reveal to you this past week in the Bible Reading Plan or through fasting last Friday?*
- *When you think about your educational or professional development, what course or test required you to study the most? Why?*

Read Bible Study Summary:

Much of our lives are spent in study, either for educational or occupational purposes. These are things that prepare us to be productive for our families and society. However, we must be serious about studying the word of God if we hope to renew our own hearts and make an impact for the Kingdom of God. But, why is this often a challenge for us? Perhaps some are afraid the Scripture may expose areas of their life that are inconsistent or don't line up with God's Word. Some may simply be too busy (care's of this world). Some are just not interested in what God's Word has to say. Some are afraid of what God's Word might require. As we begin our Bible study on the topic of Study, let us look to Scripture to see why it is such an important spiritual discipline and how we can apply it to our lives.

Main Scripture

1. *Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17*

How Do I Practice the Spiritual Discipline of Study?

1. Discern the Reasons to Study

- The reasons to study the Word of God are numerous and should be somewhat obvious. The Word is truth, It guides, It protects, It teaches us about our relationship with God and with one another. You will notice in our New Testament text that the purpose of God's Word is two fold:
 - **Soul Salvation** - v. 15 - to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus.
 - **Life Salvation** - v. 17 - so the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- When we study the Bible everything points to Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith, the Savior of our souls. And, when we study the Bible we are pointed to the principles that can literally save our earthly lives, giving us our purpose and foundation for living.

- **Read Psalm 119:4-9** - You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me. How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.
- **Ask Question** - If you could narrow it down to one, what is the main reason you believe the discipline of Study is critical for spiritual growth?

2. Develop the Desire to Study

- Human beings are created with an innate desire for purpose in life. And just in case you haven't noticed, the world is fanatical about a lot of things which can end up out of balance or even destructive. If we don't find that purpose in God's Word we will search for it somewhere else. You've got to come to the place where you say: "I'm tired of being lost, confused, miserable, hopeless, and without purpose!"
- Embracing God's truths will lead you to experience God's divine design for your life and it's better than anything the world can offer you! As you begin to experience the truth and reality of God's Word in your life, you will get excited to discover more, to learn more and to apply more of it to your life. It's addictive in a good way, a Godly way.
 - **Read Psalm 119:10; 14; 16; 20** - I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 14 I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. 16 I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word. 20 My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times.
 - **Ask Questions**
 - Think about your spiritual growth as a Christian. In what season of life have you had the strongest desire to study God's Word? Why?
 - What is a specific truth you have discovered in God's Word that made you hunger for more or his Word?

3. Discover the Art of Study

- When it comes to studying the Bible there is not a one size fits all approach. There are certainly tried and proven methods, but your style and art of study will be unique to you. You may be a morning person or a night person, so your study times will be different. The length of your study will also depend on your temperament and your situation in life.
- **Read Psalm 119:11-16** - I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.
 - **Read (or Listen)** - Did you notice the Psalmist talks about hiding God's Word in his heart? That means he read and memorized it. If you struggle with memorization, then learn the principle and get the point in your heart!
 - **Receive in Your Heart** - Did you notice the Psalmist asked God to teach him? We must ask God to inspire our time of study with His Holy Spirit. Ask Him, he will answer. Practically speaking, the best way to be receptive is by setting aside some time and a place to study.
 - **Recount during Your Day** - Did you notice the Psalmist said he would recount the laws that come from the mouth of God? Think about them every chance you get. Look for applications as

you go about your day. Ask yourself what Scripture applies to the situation you're facing right now, or the Scripture that applies to what some other person is going through who you're trying to help.

- **Ask Questions - Read, Receive, Recount** - *Which aspect of the art of Study is your strength? Why? Which is your weakness? Why?*

4. Decide to Obey What You Study

- As you apply The Word of God to your life on a daily basis you will discover that the Bible is the greatest book of wisdom ever written. You will discover that its promises are real and powerful. It will change your life and those around you.
- James 1:22 says, “*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*” We must commit to a life of obedience. We must ask God to open our eyes so we can see the wonderful things in God’s law and apply them to our daily lives. In doing so, we are basically putting hands and feet to God’s love!
 - **Read Psalm 119:17-18** *Do good to your servant, and I will live; I will obey your word. Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.*
 - **Ask Questions**
 - *In what ways has studying God’s Word transformed the way you live your life?*
 - *What area of your life has God’s Word challenged you the most?*

Closing

- Remind your group of the church-wide fast opportunity
 - Fasting the next two Fridays for lunch, or breakfast and lunch.
 - Praying for specific purposes.
 - Saving money that would have been spent on meals for missions offering.
 - Joining us on Good Friday evening for worship at 7pm. Missions offering will be collected.
- Ask Question - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?*
- Pray together over those requests.