

The Bible

Objectives:

1. A growing love for the Word of God.
2. A developing habit of daily reading.
3. A developing habit of putting the Word into practice.

Materials

- The Bible* packet.
- Memorizing the Word* sheet.
- The Word* by John Meyer.

Tasks:*During the Meeting:*

- Discuss the *Daily Habit of Prayer* teaching.
- Review Philippians 4:6-7
- Go through the *The Bible* packet.
- Read through the *Memorizing the Word* packet.

Homework:

- Memorize Joshua 1:8 before the next meeting.
- Listen to the *The Word* teaching before next time.
- Write out a verse to put into practice each day.

The Bible

Is the Bible Inspired by God?

1. What did the writers of the Bible claim about the words they wrote?

- A. 2 Peter 1:20-21 _____
- B. 2 Timothy 3:16 _____
- C. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 _____

2. Prophecy shows that the Bible is inspired by God.

One-fourth of the Bible consists of prophecies about future events. The Bible claims to be 100 percent accurate in these predictions (Deuteronomy 18:20-22). Below are four prophecies about Christ's first coming:

Event	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Place of Birth	"But you Bethlehem Ephrathah . . . Out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel." Micah 5:2 700 B.C.	"Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea." Matthew 2:1 0 A.D.
Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver	"So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter" - the handsome price at which they priced me!" Zechariah 11:12-13 500 B.C.	"Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests . . . and they weighed out to him thirty pieces of silver." Matthew 26:14-15 32 A.D.
Garments Divided	"They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." Psalm 22:18 1000 B.C.	"When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots." Matthew 27:35 32 A.D.
Crucifixion	"They have pierced my hands and my feet." Psalm 22:16 1000 B.C.	"When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him." Luke 23:33 32 A.D.

What chance would the prophets have of predicting these events in their own wisdom? Peter Stoner, in his book *Science Speaks*, calculates the probability of the prophets predicting eight similar events without supernatural help. He calculated they would have the same chance as a blindfolded man would have of choosing one marked silver dollar out of a mass of silver dollars covering the state of Texas 2 feet deep. These are only eight of the more than 300 prophecies fulfilled in Christ!

The Bible**Why is God's Word Important?****1. Why does Jesus want us to hold to his teaching? John 8:31-32**

2. According to Paul, what can change our lives? 1 Thessalonians 2:13

- positive thinking
- rules and regulations
- self-discipline
- Hearing and believing God's Word

4. In what ways can the Bible help you? 2 Timothy 3:16

5. Read Luke 10:38-42

A. Out of all the activities that we could be involved in during our lives, how many does Jesus say are really important in this passage? Why?

B. When the Lord Jesus says there is really only one thing that is necessary for our lives, we should certainly pay close attention. What was the one necessary thing that Mary had chosen as her first priority?

- watching TV
- sleeping
- eating
- studying
- listening to God's Word
- serving others

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6. Often, we tend to make excuses or put other things before God. In Luke 14:25-27, Jesus says that if we don't love Him more than any other person or thing, we can't even begin to be His disciple. What excuses did the men in Luke 14:16-20 give for not following God?

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

7. What things might you tend to put before obeying God and spending time listening to His words?

When Should You Read?

1. Why did God call the people from Berea noble-minded? Acts 17:11

2. When did David regularly get alone to cry out to God and read His words?

Psalm 119:147 _____

3. Why, in your thinking, could the mornings be an especially good time to be alone with God?

4. Read 1 Peter 2:2

A. What does God want you to desire and how intensely should you desire it?

B. What will be the result?

C. Newborn babies are almost constantly hungry. They require nourishment many times every day. Applying this thought to the Word, how should you arrange your daily schedule? Be specific.

The Bible**How Should You Study?****1. Pray**

A. Much study of the Bible on our own is not enough to give us understanding. What else is necessary? Luke 24:45

B. Psalm 119:18 is a good prayer to pray before you read God's Word. How would you pray this prayer using your own words?

2. Meditate

A. In Colossian 3:16, God give us a command.

1. Where should the Word of Christ dwell?

2. What are some specific ways that you can put this command into action?

B. Read Joshua 1:8

1. What must you do in order to have a successful life?

- graduate with good grades
- get the right job
- meditate of God's words

2. The word meditate means to think about or ponder. How often must we do this?

3. What is the purpose of pondering God's words?

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1. Obey

A. What should be your goal when you read the Bible? James 1:22

B. How can you tell if a person is truly wise? James 3:13-17

- if he knows a lot in the Bible
- if he has been a Christian for many years
- if he can win every argument
- if he is doing what the Bible says

C. What is true of the person who knows something from the Word and does not obey it?

James 1:22 _____

James 4:17 _____

D. Just as it is the duty of every soldier to obey his commander, so it is our duty to obey the Lord. According to Revelation 4:11 why does the Lord deserve our worship and obedience?

E. Why does God want us to obey all His commands? Deuteronomy 6:24

Write down a place where you can privately meet with the Lord every day.

Time _____ Place _____

Question for Thought:

List several reasons why a daily time reading the Bible is essential for your life:

Do you want every day to be exciting with God? It can be if you do this: Get into the Word of God daily and sincerely pray a prayer like this every time before reading —

“Lord, whatever you show me, I will do, today.”

Memorizing God's Word

Why Should I Actually Memorize the Bible?

By memorizing passages of the Bible you can equip yourself to be well prepared for many different situations. It is useful in fighting temptation, dealing with stress, making decisions, guarding doctrine, encouraging others, and counseling others. Although it may seem like a difficult process at first, you'll find that some of the tips below will make the process much easier.

What If I'm Not Very Good At Memorizing?

Chances are you can finish most of the following sentences:

Four score and . . .

I pledge allegiance . . .

Can you remember the theme song to Friends, The Fresh Prince of Bel Air, or Gilligan's Island? Can you remember at least some of the lines from your favorite song? Chance are you can. Not only that but you know your phone number, address, and social security number. You can remember those obscure pieces of information and many other similar facts—without even trying. How did you do that? You saw, heard, and wrote them again and again—repetition over time. If you hear something enough times you will memorize it!

What Are Some Practical Helps For Memorizing?

Write it out

Always write memory verses on cards so that they can be reviewed in flash card style.

Read the verse aloud many times

You can memorize verses simply by repeating them enough times to yourself. Break the verses into natural phrases and repeat each phrase until you have memorized it. Once you have each phrase memorized, work on the whole verse.

Say it the same every time

When memorizing verses always aim to get them 100% correct. This important for two reasons. First of all, because the Bible is the word of God, it is important to remember and speak it as accurately as possible. Secondly remembering it word for word makes it easier to remember. Saying the first part of a verse correctly triggers the second part of the verse.

Learn the reference first

The reference is the most abstract part of the verse, but you can still memorize it. After all, you memorized your social security number, right? Since the reference is the hardest part to memorize, repeat it the most. Learn it first and say it before and after the verse every time you repeat the verse.

Carry some cards with you at all times for review.

The more you can review the better. Review them while waiting in lines, before bed, during commercials, or in the bathroom or car.

Keep reviewing

Keep reviewing all the verses that you know. Review the ones you have a harder time with frequently.

Have a plan

Pick a set of verses or a verse program. Set a goal for the number of verses you will memorize each week. Set specific regular times for memorizing.

Work with others!

LIVE THE NEW LIFE

Christ the Center	2 Corinthians 5:17	Galatians 2:20
Obedience to Christ	Romans 12:1	John 14:21
The Word	2 Timothy 3:16	Joshua 1:8
Prayer	John 15:7	Philippians 4:6,7
Fellowship	Matthew 18:20	Hebrews 10:24,25
Witnessing	Matthew 4:19	Romans 1:16

PROCLAIM CHRIST

All Have Sinned	Romans 3:23	Isaiah 53:6
Sin's Penalty	Romans 6:23	Hebrews 9:27
Christ Paid the Penalty	Romans 5:8	1 Peter 3:18
Salvation is not by Works	Ephesians 2:8,9	Titus 3:5
Must Receive Christ	John 1:12	Revelation 3:20
Assurance of Salvation	1 John 5:13	John 5:24

RELY ON GOD'S RESOURCES

His Spirit	1 Corinthians 3:16	1 Corinthians 2:12
His Strength	Isaiah 41:10	Philippians 4:13
His Faithfulness	Lamentations 3:22,23	Numbers 23:19
His Peace	Isaiah 26:3	1 Peter 5:7
His Provision	Romans 8:32	Philippians 4:19
His Help in Temptation	Hebrews 2:18	Psalms 119:9,11

BE CHRIST'S DISCIPLE

Put Christ First	Matthew 6:33	Luke 9:23
Separate From the World	1 John 2:15,16	Romans 12:2
Be Steadfast	1 Corinthians 15:58	Hebrews 12:3
Serve Others	Mark 10:45	2 Corinthians 4:5
Give Generously	Proverbs 3:9,10	2 Corinthians 9:6,7
Develop World Vision	Acts 1:8	Matthew 28:19,20

GROW IN CHRISTLIKENESS

Love	John 13:34,35	1 John 3:18
Humility	Philippians 2:3,4	1 Peter 5:5,6
Purity	Ephesians 5:3	1 Peter 2:11
Honesty	Leviticus 19:11	Acts 24:16
Faith	Hebrews 11:6	Romans 4:20,21
Good Works	Galatians 6:9,10	Matthew 5:16