

Studying the Word

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed.” II Timothy 2:15

Training Session 4: Studying the Scripture

“Reading gives us breadth, but study gives us depth....Greater diligence and mental intensity are required for study, in which we analyze a passage, compare Scripture with Scripture, ask questions, make observations, and finally organize the fruit of our study into some kind of logical presentation. The discipline of writing down our study material helps to clarify our thoughts. All of the strengthens our knowledge of the truth and helps us grow in godliness.”
Jerry Bridges

“My son, if you **accept** my words **Teachability**
And **store up** my commands within you, **Intent to Obey**
Turning your ear to wisdom
And **applying** your heart to understanding, **Mental Discipline**
And if you **call out** for insight
And **cry aloud** for understanding, **Prayerful Dependence**
And if you look for it as for silver
And **search** for it as for hidden treasure, **Diligent Perseverance**
Then you will understand the fear of the Lord
And find the knowledge of God

WHY Study?

Psalms 19:7-9, 12-14

The law of the LORD is perfect, **reviving the soul**;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, **making wise the simple**;
The precepts of the LORD are right, **rejoicing the heart**;
The commandment of the LORD is pure, **enlightening the eyes**;
The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
The rules of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.....
Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
Let them **not have dominion over me!**
Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

How?

1. Personal Study
2. Corporate Study – Discipleship Groups, Classes, Sermons

John Knox Wholesome Counsel in 1556

Not so much to instruct you, as to leave with you (dearly beloved brethren) some testimony of my love, I have thought good to communicate with you, in these few lines, my weak counsel, how I would you should behave yourselves in the midst of this wicked generation, touching the exercise of God's most holy and sacred word, without which neither shall knowledge increase, godliness appear, nor fervency continue amongst you.

*“For as the Word of God is the beginning of life’s spiritual
Without which all flesh is dead in God’s presence
And the lantern to our feet without the brightness thereof
All the posterity of Adam walks in darkness
And as it is the foundation of faith
Without which no man understands the good will of God.
So it is also the only organ and instrument which God uses
To strengthen the weak
To comfort the afflicted
To reduce to mercy by repentance such as have slidden
And finally to preserve and keep the very life of the soul
In all assaults and temptations
And therefore if that you desire your knowledge to be increased
Your faith to be confirmed
Your consciences to be quieted and comforted
And finally your soul to be preserved in life
Let your exercise be frequent in the Word of your God
Teaching us bringing light into our darkness.”*

Charles Spurgeon Morning & Evening January 18 (Mid 1800's) potato famine

"He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."

*The two disciples on the road to Emmaus had a most profitable journey.
Their companion and teacher was the best of tutors; the interpreter one of a thousand,
in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
The Lord Jesus condescended to become a preacher of the gospel,
and he was not ashamed to exercise his calling before an audience of two persons,
neither does he now refuse to become the teacher of even one.
Let us court the company of so excellent an Instructor,
for till he is made unto us wisdom we shall never be wise unto salvation.*

*This unrivalled tutor used as his class-book the best of books.
Although able to reveal fresh truth, he preferred to expound the old.
He knew by his omniscience what was the most instructive way of teaching,
and by turning at once to Moses and the prophets,
he showed us that the surest road to wisdom is not
speculation, reasoning, or reading human books,*

“Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!” Isaiah 5:21

but meditation upon the Word of God.

*The readiest way to be spiritually rich in heavenly knowledge
is to dig in this mine of diamonds, to gather pearls from this heavenly sea.
When Jesus himself sought to enrich others, he wrought in the quarry of Holy Scripture.*

*The favoured pair were led to consider the best of subjects,
for Jesus spake of Jesus, and expounded the things concerning himself.
Here the diamond cut the diamond, and what could be more admirable?
The Master of the House unlocked his own doors, conducted the guests to his table,
and placed his own dainties upon it.
He who hid the treasure in the field himself guided the searchers to it.
Our Lord would naturally discourse upon the sweetest of topics,
and he could find none sweeter than his own person and work:
with an eye to these we should always search the Word.
O for grace to study the Bible with Jesus as both our teacher and our lesson!*

Tim Keller

“Jesus Christ doesn’t just give us truths; he is the truth. Jesus Christ is the prophet to end all prophets. He gives us hard-copy words from God, truths on which we can build our lives, truths we have to submit to, truths we have to obey, and truths we have to build our lives on, but he himself is the truth.”?

How?

1. Personal Study of the Bible
2. Corporate Study – Sermon Discussion, Classes, Discipleship Groups

Tim Keller

“The mark of the godly man is he likes to change. The mark of the godly man is he says, ‘Lord, show me where I should change, and I’ll do it. Show me where I should obey, even where it’s hard, and I’ll do it.’”

John Calvin

When I took the leap, I had faith I would find a net; Instead I learned I could fly.”

