



**Harvest Fellowship  
Small Group Study  
February 2017**

## **WEEK 1: READING THE WORD**

***“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4***

**1. According to passages below, how are we to view the Bible and why are we to trust it as authoritative over our lives?**

Psalm 119:105

Romans 15:4

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Hebrews 4:12-13

2 Peter 1:16-21

**2. According to these passages, what is the value of engaging with God’s word?**

**3. What are your own reasons you would add to these?**

**4. Why do you think so many Christians struggle to spend regular time engaging with the Bible? What keeps people from spending more time reading and studying the Bible?**

## 5. What could help change this?

## 6. Reading Assignments for the week:

**1-1-1-1:** For 3 days during each week of the study, you will engage with one passage of Scripture to come away with one thought, one application, and one prayer request from the passage (which we will call the **4-Rs**):

- ✓ **1 Reading** (Which passage are you reading?)
- ✓ **1 Reflection** (What is one thought or reflection you can take from this passage? i.e. what is this passage about?)
- ✓ **1 Response** (What is one thing God is calling you to believe or do based on this passage?)
- ✓ **1 Request** (What is one prayer you can pray for yourself from this passage?)

Each passage focuses on one of three topics: engaging the word, enjoying God, or the gospel (what we are to believe and how we are to live).

**Pray:** Share prayer requests and pray that as you put reading the word into practice this week, it will bear fruit in your lives and cause you to grow in your enjoyment of God and his word.

### Resources:

Websites:

<http://bibleplan.org/> *Bible reading plans – lots of options*

<https://thebibleproject.com/> *Helps you read the Bible through as a whole by helping you understand each part and each book.*

Apps:

Read Scripture (part of thebibleproject.com) *Guides you through the whole Bible with readings and videos explaining each book.*

Bible Reading (by Puritan Soft) *lets you choose a plan and then keeps track of where you are.*

Bible Progress. *Helps you keep track of how much of the Bible you have read by book and chapter*

## PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

### Day 1:

1 Reading (Passage): **Psalm 19:1-14**

1 Reflection (Point):

1 Response (Product):

1 Request (Prayer):

### Day 2:

1 Reading (Passage): **Psalm 63**

1 Reflection (Point):

1 Response (Product):

1 Request (Prayer):

**Day 3:**

1 Reading (Passage): **John 1:1-18**

1 Reflection (Point):

1 Response (Product):

1 Request (Prayer):

## WEEK 2: STUDYING THE WORD

1. Review of last weeks' passages.

2. What is the difference between studying and reading a passage?  
What is the value of each?

3. Steps to studying a passage:

### **Step 1: Prayer**

Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your study, give you focus and insight into his Word for your growth and encouragement.

### **Step 2: Observation** (*What does the passage say?*)

What are the key words, repeated words, key themes? What are the main ideas of the passage? Seek to answer: who, what, where, when, why, and how?

### **Step 3: Interpretation** (*What does the passage mean? What did God want the original audience to understand and what is implied for Christians today?*)

What aspect of the "One Story" of Scripture does this passage speak to: Creation, the Fall, Redemption, or Restoration? What light does it shed on this chapter of the One Story?

The key principle in interpreting Scripture: Since Scripture cannot contradict itself, the meaning of this passage cannot contradict other passages; therefore we need to let clearer passages give clarity to the more difficult passages.

### **Step 4: Application** (*What am I going to do about what the passage says and means?*)

How does the Lord want me to respond to what this passage says?  
How does this passage speak to my life and circumstances?

To help in application, ask these questions about the passage:

- ✓ How does the truth revealed here affect my relationship with God?
- ✓ How does this truth affect my relationship with others?
- ✓ How does this truth affect me?

You can also use the SPECK method to discover applications from a passage:

- ✓ What Sin am I to avoid?
- ✓ What Promise am I to claim?
- ✓ What Example am I to follow?
- ✓ What Commandment am I to obey?
- ✓ What Knowledge about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit am I to embrace?

**Step 5: Pray** (*Pray that the Lord would empower you to live out the application*).

**Pray:** Share prayer requests and pray that as you put studying the word into practice this week, it will bear fruit in your lives and cause you to grow in your enjoyment of God and his word.

**PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:** This week we will be using the steps to studying Scripture instead of the 4-R's.

**Day 1: Passage: John 15:4-11**

Pray.

Read the Passage.

Observations:

Interpretations:

Application:

Prayer:

**Day 2: Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

Pray.

Read the Passage.

Observations:

Interpretations:

Application:

Prayer:

**Day 3: Passage: Psalm 1:1-6**

Pray.

Read the Passage.

Observations:

Interpretations:

Application:

Prayer:

## **WEEK 3: MEDITATING ON THE WORD**

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...” Colossians 3:16*

1. Review of last week’s passages.

In Psalm 1, what is the connection the Psalmist makes between delighting in the law of the Lord (God’s word) and meditating on it? and the connection between meditating on the law (vs. 2) with what he says in verses 1 and 3?

2. Read Joshua 1:7-9. How is Joshua to be strong and courageous? Where is he to get this courage?

3. What is the difference between Christian meditation and Eastern meditation?

4. How is meditating on God’s word different from reading or studying God’s word?

5. How do we meditate on a verse?

6. David Mathis in his book, “Habits of Grace” says that meditation “is less about the posture of our bodies and more about the posture of our souls.” What do you think he means by that?

**Pray:** Share prayer requests and pray that as you put meditating on the word into practice this week, it will bear fruit in your lives and cause you to grow in your enjoyment of God and his word.

**PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:** (spend 10-15 minutes meditating on the passage, then write out your reflection, response, and request)

**Day 1:**

1 Reading (Passage): **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

1 Reflection (Point):

1 Response (Product):

1 Request (Prayer):

**Day 2:**

1 Reading (Passage): **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

1 Reflection (Point):

1 Response (Product):

1 Request (Prayer):

**Day 3:**

1 Reading (Passage): **Titus 3:4-7**

1 Reflection (Point):

1 Response (Product):

1 Request (Prayer):

## **WEEK 4: MEMORIZING THE WORD**

*“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11*

1. Review of last weeks' passages, reflections and responses.
2. What is the value of taking time to memorize verses from the Bible? How can memorizing Scripture help your own spiritual growth and help you minister to others?
3. Read John 8:31-32. In essence, both memorizing and meditating on God's word enable us to abide in it and it to abide in us. According to John 8:31-32, what is the benefit of abiding in God's word?
4. What are the challenges or barriers people face to memorizing Scripture?
5. What are some helpful tips to memorizing verses?

**Pray:** Share prayer requests and pray that as you put memorizing Scripture into practice this week, it will bear fruit in your lives and cause you to grow in your enjoyment of God and his word.

### **Resources:**

**Scripture Typer** (Bible Memory System App)

**PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:** Spend time memorizing the passage and then write your reflection, response, and request. You might find it helpful to write the passage on a note card and keep it with you during the week to review the verse as you commit it to memory.

**Day 1:**

1 Passage: **Psalm 16:11** *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.(ESV)*

1 Reflection (Point):

1 Response (Product):

1 Request (Prayer):

**Day 2:**

1 Passage: **Psalm 90:14** *Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.(ESV)*

1 Reflection (Point):

1 Response (Product):

1 Request (Prayer):

**Day 3:**

1 Passage: **John 8:31-32** *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

1 Reflection (Point):

1 Response (Product):

1 Request (Prayer):