



Praise

- Read **Psalm 100** - Read this Psalm as a prayer. Learn to use scripture to pray.

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus.

- What are you celebrating in terms of mission?
- What happened as you trusted God w/ your goals & 'I will by when' statements?

Motivation and Encouragement

God has given us every spiritual blessing through Jesus. He has adopted us into His family and calls us His children. *"You were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance."* (Ephesians 3:13-14a) What an amazing gift! This is God's promise for you.

Context

After Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to His disciples many times during a 40-day period. One of the times He appeared while they were meeting in a large room and He explained the importance of His Word.

Read

- **Luke 24:36-49**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story.

Summary

Jesus wants us to understand God's Word and what it teaches us about Him. Jesus' life fulfilled the promises in God's Word. He wants us to tell others about what we learn.

Read **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, **Romans 10:17** and **Hebrews 4:12** to highlight truths about God's Word. Reading the Bible each day is an important part of getting to know Jesus.

Preparing

- **READ and DISCUSS** How to Experience the Power of **God's Word**
- Make a commitment to read a chapter from the Word of God each day, beginning with the Gospel of John.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will teach you through His Word as you read the chapter and then answer three questions:
 - What is this passage about?
 - How can I apply it?
 - With whom can I share this passage?
- Meditate on what the Spirit has taught you.

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Consider people from your [Oikos Network List](#) with whom you could tell this week's story or share about Jesus.
- Write "I will by when" statements on your [Next Step Goal](#) sheet and tell them to your group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's applications/goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful to what we are learning and use us to help others.

In Your Time With God

- **If you are not yet in the habit, why not begin reading the Bible on a daily basis.**

How to Experience the Power of God's Word

"The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any two-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

Before I became a believer in Jesus Christ, God's Word did not make sense to me. I occasionally tried to read it during my high school and college days but found it boring. Finally, I concluded that no really intelligent person could believe the Bible.

Then I became a Christian.

My life was transformed, and my attitudes concerning the Scriptures changed. I realized the Bible was truly the holy, inspired and eternally authoritative Word of God.

God's inspired Word has several characteristics that guarantee powerful results. First, it is infused with the power of the Holy Spirit. It has been said that a Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to a person who isn't. That is because God's Word is energetic and active, speaking to today's world and our own personal needs and circumstances.

Second, God's word is truth. It awakens our conscience. With the power to reach into the private corners of our hearts, the Word bares our motives and secret feelings and reveals our hidden longings.

Third, God's Word discerns our true character. It exposes the weakness in our attitudes and conduct, enabling us to correct ourselves by the power of His Holy Spirit.

The Bible is God's love letter to man. From Genesis to Revelation, it tells of God's great compassion for us and His desire to fellowship with us.

Seek to understand the deep things of God. Study the Word as a miner digs for gold, or as a diver plunges into the depths of the sea for pearls.

Every time you and I read and study God's Word carefully, we are building up our storehouse of faith. When we memorize the Word, our faith is being increased.

Reading the Bible is vital for every Christian. How can we learn about God or grow spiritually if we do not spend time studying the Book in which He has made Himself known to us?

Taking a few minutes each day to read a chapter is a good way to start. But we should also block out extended periods of time for exploring God's Word and reflecting on what He is saying to us.

Proper Attitude for Bible Study

When you personally received Christ as your Savior and Lord, you began a great adventure. That great adventure is mapped out in the pages of the Holy Scriptures. As you read and study the Bible in the power of the Holy Spirit, you will receive meaning, strength, direction, and power for your life. You will learn and claim the many great promises God has reserved for His own.

Approach the Bible in prayer, with reverence, awe, and expectancy; with a willing mind; and with a thirst for truth, righteousness, and fullness in the Lord Jesus Christ. When you come with a humble and contrite heart, you can trust God the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to you, and you will experience the cleansing power of His eternal Word.

Above all, as you study God's Word, be eager to obey all that He commands, and rejoice in the knowledge that you are an ambassador for Christ, seeking men in His name to be reconciled to God.

Tools Needed

First, obtain at least two translations of the Bible. If you don't have access to printed Bibles in your country, you can use this web site to access multiple languages and translations of the Bible: www.biblegateway.org.

Study the various translations. You would not expect to learn much about the physical laws of our universe without diligent and persistent study. Should you expect to acquire much knowledge of God and the unsearchable riches of His Word without studying with equal diligence and persistence?

As funds are available, you will want to secure a topical Bible, a concordance, and a Bible dictionary. Additional Bible study books are helpful and can be added as convenient. However, always remember,

Bible study involves just that -- studying the Bible. The other items are merely tools to assist you in getting the rich truths God has for you in His Word.

As you consider each study of the Scriptures, may I suggest you record God's Word to you in a journal. This will not only result in a deeper, more serious study, it will give you a written record of how God speaks to you and of your response to Him.

Suggested Methods

Book study. The Bible contains many books. Yet the divine plan of God to redeem men in Christ Jesus runs through the whole of it. Be careful to consider each book as a part of the whole. Read it through. Following these suggestions will help make your study more meaningful:

- Mark and underline as God speaks to you through His Word.
- Outline it.
- List the names of the principal characters; tell who they are and their significance.
- Select from each chapter key verses to memorize and copy them on a card to carry with you.
- List teachings to obey and promises to claim.
- Consider the characteristics revealed of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Which book would you particularly like to study using this method? (It is best to start with one of the shorter ones.)

Chapter study. To get a grasp of the chapter, answer the following questions:

- What is the leading lesson?
- What is the key verse? (Memorize it.)
- Who are the principal characters?
- What does it teach about God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit?
- Is there any example for me to follow?
- Is there any error for me to avoid?
- Is there any duty for me to perform?
- Is there any promise for me to claim?
- Is there any prayer for me to echo?

I urge you to begin hiding the Word of God in your heart, drawing upon its wisdom for your life.

Remember that God's Word will never return to Him void, but will most certainly accomplish what it was sent to do. Share the Word with a friend, bearing witness to the faithfulness of our wonderful Lord and the power and authority of His Holy Spirit.

Life Application

When we approach the Word of God, what is the first thing we should understand? (II Peter 1:20-21)

What is one way the power of the Bible manifests itself according to II Timothy 3:15?

How have you experienced that power in your life recently?

Adapted from a variety of Bill Bright articles