

Scripture: The Importance of God's Word in Our Lives

core help

Goal: The goal of this study is to help us see why regular interaction with Scripture is so essential to our lives and encourage us toward deeper study of God's Word.

Openers:

- What makes it difficult to read & study the Bible?
- Spend some time praying that the Holy Spirit will give everyone insight into His Word and begin to stir a hunger in our hearts for His Word as you talk about your scripture passage for tonight.

Scripture:

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 (NIV)

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,

15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.

3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge the duties of your ministry.

Digging Deeper:

Observations

- Give everyone time to read all 4 chapters of 2 Timothy. Answer the following 2 questions together and write down everyone's responses on a piece of butcher paper or a white board:
 - Who is the author? (make a list of everything you can learn about him from the letter?)
 - Who is Paul writing to? (make a list of everything the letter tells you about him)
- What is going on before and after your passage?
- What is the Paul's main thought in your passage?
- What reasons does Paul give for why knowing scripture is important? ***(it is able to point us to salvation through faith in Christ, it is God-breathed; useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training so we follow God's ways and can be equipped to do God's work in the world, helps us discern the difference between what is true and what is false, helps us discern the kind of teacher to listen to)***

Applications

- Which of the reasons that Paul gives for the importance of knowing scripture do you appreciate the most? Why?
- What part of scripture do you need to get to know better to be able to pass it on to others well?
- Take a moment for each person in Core to pick a passage from scripture (3-8 verses) that they will study on their own during a devo time next week. Give some time next Core for guys/gals to share with each other what they learned in their study during the week.
 - Note: There are two methods of studying scripture with this help. Print off both methods and give them to each person in your Core so they can pick a method to use in their personal bible study next week.

The 2 PROAPT Bible Study Method

1. PRAY: Ask The Holy Spirit to lead you and give you insight in to what the scripture reveals concerning your heart, your mind, and your will.

2. PREVIEW:

- Pick an appropriate paragraph/passage to study. It should be manageable and not too large in size.
- Determine the passage's immediate context by looking at what precedes and follows it.

3. READ: Read the passage through at least three times (the more the better). Read it slowly and out loud if possible. Read it with your heart (emotions) your mind (intellect) and your will (volition) — Try to get a 'feel' for the passage.

4. OBSERVATION:

A. Investigation

1. Copy the text down in your journal or on a piece of paper.

2. Mark the primary words:

- Connector Words - for example: and, therefore, because, for, that, so that, as, like.
- Key words – repeated words, words that need further study, words that seem to be important to the author.
- Comparisons & contrasts set off by like, as, but, yet, or nevertheless.
- Reasons—results—purposes indicated by words like because, since, for, that, so that, therefore, in order that.

B. Interrogation—asking the primary questions:

1. Where? (place, location)
2. When? (When was it written, when will it happen)
3. How? (How did he/she do it)
4. Who? (Who are the individuals involved in the passage)
5. What? (What do I see, what is the basic thought)

6. Why? (Why was it said)

C. Initial Outline Guidelines

1. The Historical Question

- What is the author trying to say? Look for historical/cultural references, key characters, geographical setting, other important information.

2. The Theological Question

- What is being taught about the nature of God, Man, Sin, The Church, Salvation, the Christian faith? Write clear and concise one sentence principles that capture the main points of the author.

5. APPLICATION:

Do the following prayerfully!

- Ask yourself:
 - How do the general principles apply to my understanding of God, the Body of Christ, and the World?
 - How do the general principles apply to my life?

6. PRAY:

Some Tips:

- Read the passage again slowly with feeling and using your imagination. Visualize and participate in what you are reading.
- Pray the verses through to God.
- Pray spontaneously as the passage leads you.
- Ask the Lord (then listen) what some practical and attainable steps He wants you to take.
- Write down any impressions from the Lord

7. TELL:

- Tell someone you know about what you have learned and experienced in this study. It can be over conversation, email, phone, etc.
- Share what you've learned in Core.

The SOAP Bible Study Method

Scripture

- Take a passage of scripture (3-8 verses). Read it out loud several times. It also helps to write it out.

Observe

- Ask the Lord to highlight a verse, a word, a phrase, a principle from the passage. Write down anything that sticks out to you and ask the Lord one or more of the following questions:
 - What are you trying to show me?
 - What truths do you want me to learn?
 - Anything you want to warn me about?
 - A command you want to give?
 - A guiding principle you want me to know?
- Jot down anything you hear

Apply

- Journal through – what do I do with this? How should this affect my life? Or What are the Lord's instructions, encouragements, or corrections for me today?

Pray

- Talk to the Lord about the passage – what stuck out to you and what you seem to be hearing from Him.