

BIBLE STUDY

week 8



NOTES

In our very first lesson, we discovered the power found within the the Word of God. Throughout the lessons of this course, we have sought to use that power to understand some vital beliefs and doctrines. As a committed follower of Jesus Christ, we must understand that our continued growth is dependent upon our continued study of God's Word. The Bible is the primary source of spiritual growth for the Christian.

As we take a closer look at Bible study in the life of the disciple, we will seek to uncover the personal help found within the Bible. We understand the Bible is true and God's Word given to mankind, but it is different than any other book in that it speaks to the heart of the saved and sinner. May this lesson encourage us to be students of God's Word because of the power found within its pages.

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES US THROUGH LIFE.

The Bible is a guidebook and a roadmap for this thing called life. Just as difficult as it is to put something together without instructions or to get somewhere without a map, it is equally as difficult to go through life without guidance and help. Thankfully, the Creator of life has filled His Word with help for daily needs.

THE BIBLE CONTAINS INSTRUCTION FOR YOUR LIFE.

Contained in the pages of Scriptures are instructions and principles for some of the issues of this life such as finances, relationships, marriage, employment, and so much more.

II Timothy 3:16

Notice the four areas in which God's Word can help us:

Doctrine - teaches us what to believe

Reproof - shows us where we are wrong

Correction - tell us what to fix when we are wrong

Instruction - gives direction in daily living the truth

If we are going to grow as a Christian, each of these aspects are must be occurring in our lives often.

THE BIBLE FEEDS YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE.

If a child does not grow physically, there would be a certain amount of concern and examination. The same should go for a Christian who has not grown spiritually in their lives. The Bible is the agent of growth in the life of the Christian.

1 Peter 2:2

If the Bible is such a source of instruction and growth in our life, how can we make sure that we are studying it and incorporating its principles in our daily lives? Let's take a look at some practical aspects in regards to studying the Word of God.

BIBLE STUDY SHOULD BE A DAILY HABIT.

Many times, we create habits around things that are good for us. Some Christians work harder at establishing carnal habits than they do spiritual and eternal habits. Someone once said, "For the Word of God to impact you personally, you must encounter it regularly."

God gives several ways to include the study of His Word as a part of our daily lives:

READ THE BIBLE DAILY.

Consider your daily Bible reading your spiritual sustenance for the day. Just as we go to the table for physical sustenance, we should come to God's Word for the spiritual sustenance.

Job 23:12

Daily Bible reading is one of the best spiritual habits that you can develop in your discipleship journey. Here are some practical tips to help you get the most out of your time of study:

- Set and time and place to read regularly.
- Follow a Bible reading plan or study guide.
- Ask God to guide you before you read. (Psalm 119:18)
- Ask yourself questions about what you read.
- Keep a journal or notebook to record verses and passages that the Holy Spirit applies to your life.

Conversation Starter: What Bible reading plan are you using right now? Have you tried using a journal to help you remember what you read? Take the time to share some ideas about what has helped you in your personal Bible study.

LISTEN TO THE PREACHING OF THE BIBLE.

While we understand that Bible reading is a large part of our spiritual growth, the Bible also teaches that we should hear and listen to the preached Word of God.

*Romans 10:17**Hebrews 10:25*

MEDITATE ON THE BIBLE.

Sometimes it is easy to get into the bad habit of reading God's Word and not allowing ourselves to think on it. Many Christians read God's Word, but do not allow it to change their daily lives. Following a meeting with God through His Word, we should become more aware of His presence throughout the day. The only way this occurs is if we meditate on what we have read that day.

Joshua 1:8

Psalms 1:2-3

The wonderful thing about meditating upon Scripture is that the Bible promises to bless and reward those who do it.

Psalms 119:11

One of the best ways to meditate on Scripture is through Scripture memorization. It is nice to have a verse or a reference readily available as things are brought into your life or into your day. Through this course, you have already started memorizing some verse about the topics covered in the discipleship book. Determine to make Scripture memory a lifelong habit of your spiritual growth.

After developing a system of memorization, begin to select verse that will help in areas of life that you are struggling with. For instance, if you are struggling with worry, you could memorize Philippians 4:6 and I Peter 5:7. Both deal with how we handle the cares of this life. God's Word has truths and instruction for every area of life! You can find verses listed by some popular topics in the Appendix section of this book.

STUDY THE BIBLE.

Have you ever heard someone describing something that sounded untruthful, but they acted as if it was truth? Then, maybe you had the same experience and discovered that they were being truthful! Sometimes, truth is better caught than taught. You can hear the Bible preached and taught, but sometimes that truth only becomes a part of you when you discover it for yourself.

If the Lord allows something into your life that causes some confusion, it is a great time to study about what the Word of God has to say about that particular issue. Sometimes churches will conduct Bible studies, but it is also something that every Christian should take part in personally. You can talk to a pastor or church leader about some tools for Bible study or use the concordance located in the back of some Bibles.

II Timothy 2:15

APPLY THE BIBLE TO YOUR LIFE.

When it comes to building a habit around the Word of God, we should realize that it's not just about what we know but what we do with what we know. We must put the truths of the Bible into action.

James 1:22-23



BIBLE STUDY CAN TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE.

The Bible can be transformative in the life of the Christian as we read, meditate, study, and obey it. The Bible was intend to cause transformation.

Romans 12:2

God's desire is that we would become a picture of the transformative work of the Gospel through His Word. This work begins in the mind by renewal though the truths of the Word of God. As our minds begin to be transformed, we will see these truths and principles begin to show up in our actions and our lives.

God's Word can change our lives in many ways, but her are just a few:

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE WILL HELP US KNOW GOD BETTER.

In a relationship with someone, we want to learn as much about them as possible. At salvation, we began a relationship with God the Father through His Son - Jesus Christ. While we may never completely understand God, we can know Him better through studying His Word.

II Peter 3:18

OBEYING THE BIBLE PRODUCES CHRIST-LIKE MATURITY.

As we consistently make good habits with the Word of God, we will begin to see ourselves behave and act more like Christ. God desires that Christians become more Christlike in all that they do.

II Corinthians 3:18

USING THE BIBLE PRODUCES SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT.

Have you ever wondered what you should do in a certain situation? There are many different avenues that promise to help, but the Bible is the only book that as we use it more and more, it promises to assist us in every area of life. It helps us discern right from wrong or principles to use if life's situations.

Hebrews 5:13-14

As we do the things taught in this lesson, we must understand that the goal is not to acquire knowledge but see transformation. A growing Christian will always be able to recent transformation in their life that has come about by the Word of God.

Following this course, it may become easy to not find yourself in the Word of God. With this is mind, let's look at a couple of applications that may keep that from happening:

Because Bible study can guide me through life, I commit to a life of learning the Bible. The Bible is God's Word that has been written and given to us. When we neglect it, we neglect the transforming truths found within. Would you commit to making Bible a part of your life? Would you commit to learning the truths found



within the Word of God?

NOTES

Because the Bible should be a part of my habits, I commit to developing a daily meeting with God. We make time for that which is important to us. When will you meet with God? What time and place will you use to study God's Word? What habits do you need to put in place in regards to Scripture reading, study, and meditation?

Because the Bible is transforming, I commit to obeying the truths found within. We should simply obey God's Word because it came from God, but aren't you glad that as we obey it, we become a better person and a better Christian? Would you decide to obey God's Word no matter what? Would you decide to allow it to be the place you receive the most instruction and counsel? Would you determine to allow it to transform you?

