



WEEK TWO: HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE

June 3, 2012

[Content from Cove Class 201]

Timothy tells us that, *"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."* – 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NIV 1984)

God's Word should be the nourishment our souls are longing to be fed. It should be the basis for our daily conversations with God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. How can we approach the Scriptures with understanding and discernment? How can we allow God to feed us and strengthen us with scripture? How can we desire and delight in God's Word?

Where Am I Today?

- 1) How much of the verse above do I believe? Are the Scriptures totally perfect? Are they really God's Word? Are there errors? Is the Bible applicable (or "useful") today? Discuss your confidence, your doubts—or both—with your group.

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Into the Bible

- 2) There are many Biblical passages that suggest a great model for having a quiet time. Briefly jot down the principles you find in the verses below:

- a. **Revelation 3:20**
- b. **Mark 1:35, Luke 22:39, Luke 5:16**
- c. **Psalm 62:1, 5**
- d. **Psalm 25:4-5**
- e. **Psalm 26:2**

- 3) During the weekend message, Mike outlined the “Five R’s” framework for a quiet time with God.

- _____ (Psalm 34:7)
- _____ (Deuteronomy 17:19)
- _____ (Psalm 1:2-3)
- _____ (Proverbs 3:1-3)
- _____ (Philippians 4:6)

- 4) One way to immerse yourself in the Bible is to memorize it.
Read Proverbs 7:1-3. Having the Word of God “written on your heart” makes it accessible and applicable any time or place you need God’s wisdom, comfort or direction. What are some other benefits of memorizing scripture?

- a. **Psalm 119:11**
- b. **Psalm 119: 105**
- c. **Psalm 119:42-44**
- d. **Jeremiah 15:16**
- e. **1 Peter 3:15**

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- 5) Meditation is just focused thinking about a Bible verse in order to discover how to apply its truth to our lives. It is exactly the opposite of “emptying out your mind” for some mystical truth. It is pondering what you already know God has said. What does this type of meditating on God’s Word do for you?
- a. **Proverbs 4:23**
 - b. **Romans 12:2**
 - c. **2 Corinthians 3:18**
 - d. **John 15:7**
 - e. **Joshua 1:8**
- 6) To grow in spiritual maturity, you need more than a daily dose of devotional reading. You need to learn to study the Bible, so you can discover direction, God’s will, and His opinion on a matter. You need to be able to study the Scriptures to lead others, whether it’s your family, a neighbor, or a few co-workers in a small Bible study. **Read 2 Timothy 2:15.** What does it tell us to do? (Look this passage up in a variety of translations!)

How Does This Apply?

- 7) We have this section—*How Does This Apply?*—each week in our Life Group materials. Because although it’s great to study, study is worthless without application. **Read Matthew 5:19, John 13:17 and James 1:22.** What do these verses tell you about application?

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- 8) The Bible, like a bridge, spans time. It made sense to the original audience, but still speaks to us—and will continue to speak as long as humans live. But perspective does matter. How do you take a Bible story and turn it into something that “matters” today? Take the story of the Good Samaritan for example. **Read Luke 10:25-37**, and discuss the following aspects as a group:



Start with _____.

Think about _____.

Consider the _____.

Look for God's _____.

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 9) **Read John 4:1-42** and ask yourself the following questions. Use a study Bible, commentaries, and resource websites to gain historical background.

What did it mean to the original hearers?

What is the underlying timeless principle?

Where or how could I practice that principle?

Write out a sentence that describes a project or action you will take to apply the truth

Other Resources From the Cove Class 201 Materials

Helpful tips on how to memorize a verse:

1. Pick a verse that speaks to you.
2. Say the reference (the “address”) before and after the verse.
3. Read the verse aloud many times.
4. Break the verse into natural phrases emphasizing key words.
5. Write out the verse on a flash card and carry it with you for review.
6. Display your verses in prominent places (bathroom, dashboard, etc.).
7. Get a CD of, or download, scripture that has been set to music.
8. Team up with a partner so that you can check in and encourage each other.
9. Start by memorizing one new verse a week.

Ways to Meditate on a Verse:

First, choose a verse that you like. Below are some ways to meditate on it. Try all the methods for the one verse.

1. **Picture it** – Visualize the scene in your mind. Or, draw a simple picture.
2. **Pronounce it** – Say the verse aloud, each time emphasizing a different word.
3. **Paraphrase it** – Rewrite the verse in your own words.
4. **Personalize it** – Replace the pronouns or names with your own name.
5. **Pray it** – Turn the verse into a prayer and say it back to God.
6. **Probe it** – Ask the following questions:

In my life, does this verse reveal any...

- Sin that I need to confess?
- Promise of God that I need to trust?
- Attitude that I need to know and change?
- Commandment that I need to keep?
- Example that I need to follow?
- Prayer that I should be praying for myself or for others?
- Error that I need to avoid?
- Spiritual truth I need to know and believe?
- Something to thank God for?

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Internet Resources:

Biblegateway.com

Crosswalk.com

Christianitytoday.com

Rick Warren's Bible Study Method
(available [here](#)¹, or as an e-book [here](#)²)

A note from Mike: Be sure you look at the sponsoring denomination or organization of other articles or websites. *"Just because it's on the web doesn't make it Biblical or true."*

¹ <http://www.saddlebackresources.com/Search.aspx?k=bible%20study>

² http://www.amazon.com/Warrens-Bible-Study-Methods-ebook/dp/B000RG1NX0/ref=tmm_kin_title_0?ie=UTF8&m=AG56TWVU5XWC2