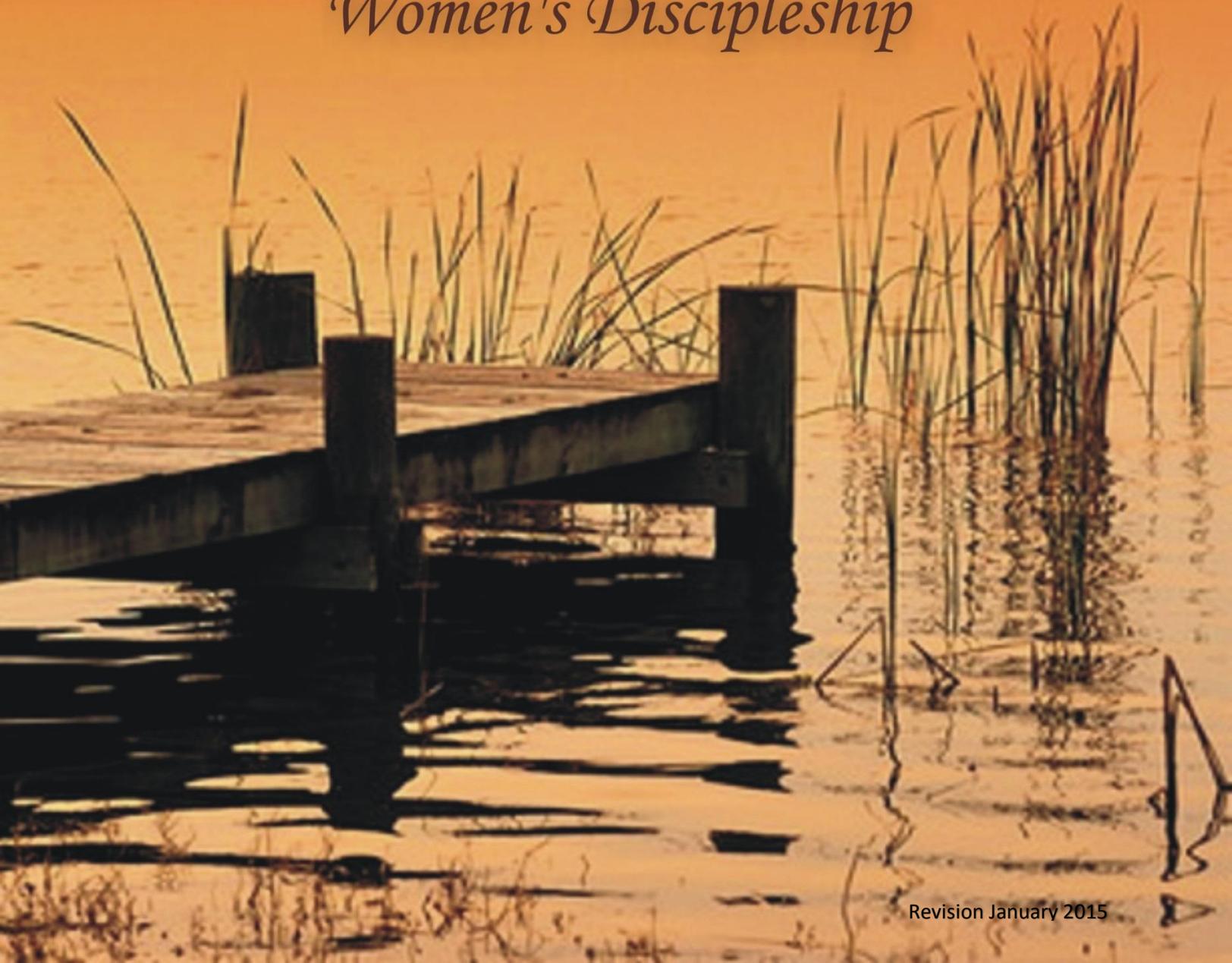


Name: _____ Date: _____

“Salt & Light”

Discipleship

*A ministry of
Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg
Women's Discipleship*



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“Salt & Light “Discipleship Guide

Revised January 2015

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“Salt & Light” Introduction

Welcome to “Salt & Light”! To help you get started we will spend some time looking through the “Salt & Light” Discipleship Guide. Today you will spend some time reading through different pages in the book and we will discuss what God is showing us as we go. This Guide is yours to take with you to use as a resource once we get moving ahead in our journey with Christ in unity with each other. We are so honored that the Lord has brought you to join us and we can’t wait to see how He will speak to all of us through what He speaks to you!! We are better together!!!

The tools you will need for this study group:

1. If you don’t already have these items we may have some for you to take. Please ask if you need anything!!
 - A Study Bible
 - A journal or notebook to record revelation received during your Quiet Times, different Scriptures that particularity strikes you as you are reading, and prayer requests for you and your group.
 - Index cards to record you weekly memory verse.

Ok, let’s get started:

1. Please fill out the information sheet at the back of this booklet. Cut it out and turn in to your instructor.
 - The Before/How/Now: give us a few words that describe you before you came to know Jesus as you Lord. Then write how you came to know Him. Lastly, write what your life is like as a result.
2. Put your name and today’s date on the front cover. This is your “tool book”, your own personal Guide. Write in it, take notes, make comments, underline, circle etc.
3. Read “Salt & Light” Introduction, **pages 2 through 5.**

Now, let’s get on with tonight...

4. Turn to **pages 6 & 7** and read Where Do I Begin?
 - Underline and make notes.
 - Let us discuss.
5. Please write the two sections on **page 6** on the inside cover of your bible.
6. Let’s take a look at the Big Four on **page 8.**

Reading Relationally! It’s what we do!!

7. Turn to **page 9.** Read up to Psalm 84:12 on **page 10.**
8. Let us read through Psalm 84:12 together.
9. Ok, now go to **page 11** and we’ll read relationally through the next two psalms together.

Let’s move on...

11. Turn to **page 12.** Let’s discuss what you will be doing this week and when you come back.
12. Please take a look at the agenda on **page 13.** This is our general plan for Thursday nights
13. The Conclusion is on **page 14 & 15.**

That’s it! You will be assigned a permanent group and next week you will be on with your discipleship journey. We are all excited to be on this journey with you. Eph. 20-21, Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

The Vision: It's All About Him

In April of 2001 we officially started our “Salt & Light” Bible discipleship groups. In “Salt & Light” we are reading relationally through the entire Bible at our own pace, fellowshiping with the Father, and encouraging each other! We are doing this together, as a team, cheering each other on!

We have never had so many books out on marriage, raising children, decision making, etc...and yet we have never had more divorces, relationship problems, problems with our children, etc.! Why? We might be looking for answers in the wrong book! Often people run to self-help books instead of the Bible. Why rely on man's opinion? The Bible says that He is the “Almighty Counselor.” (Isaiah 9:6) Only a moment of reflection would reveal that we have gotten very wrapped up in so many other materials and we have been using the Bible as a resource book, not The Book. By reading through the entire Bible, we are seeking the whole counsel of God. Psalm 119:160 tells us, “The sum of His Word is Truth.” We desire no other answers but His!

It is so interesting how people often ask if you have read this book or that book, but we rarely hear people saying, “Have you read the book of Romans, or Deuteronomy or Luke?” I am sure you get the point. Of course we can still access all those other wonderful resources, but the problem often is that instead of letting “His Word” dwell richly in our hearts, the “resources” have our hearts. Instead of seeking the whole counsel of God we often copy or repeat what others have said. Others who are personally sitting at His feet, which means that we are missing out on the thrill of what happens when we ask God to “Open our minds to understand the Scriptures.” (Luke 24:45) We are missing the intimate relationship with the Father.

Self-Feeding Christians

We understand that eating food is the life giving necessity our body needs to survive. Without healthy food on a regular basis our body would shrivel up and die. In the same way, reading and hearing the Word of God is our spiritual food. Without the reading and hearing of the Word in relationship with Jesus, on a regular basis, our spirit would shrivel up and die.

People are often living off the insights which the Holy Spirit has given to others and are not fulfilling themselves because they have not gotten the full meal from the Lord. The reading of the Word is where the spiritual relationship is built. Some have been snacking, and snacking just leaves them feeling unfulfilled and wanting a real meal! May you prayerfully consider putting all other reading material aside until you get through the Bible the first time! You will be glad you did!

Each time you read a Christian book, listen to television, radio, or a video speaker, hear your pastor give a message, or listen to a conference teacher, may each one of these brothers and sisters generate a hunger in you to go and hear from God! May that be our mindset as we listen to others who have spent time with God and who then share their treasures with us. God is interested in us spending time with Him ourselves! He doesn't care how much we know, until He knows how much we care.

In “Salt & Light” we are teaching folks to be self-feeding Christians, feasting directly from His Word. The power of the Holy Spirit, speaking to us through the Bible alone, has been underestimated. We are seeing “just” His Word powerfully change lives as people are daily feeding their minds with the pure milk of the Word, the whole counsel of God.

Brain Washed

Once while many of us were gathered together reading His Word, a seeker said to me, “Excuse me, but I just have to tell you I feel like what we are reading in this Bible is just brainwashing us.” I said, “You know, you are exactly right. We all need our brains washed with the Truth because of all the lies we've believed.” You could have heard a pin drop. At the end of our time together in God's Word, one of those girls became a Christian! Faith comes by hearing the Word of God! Her brain was definitely washed with the Truth! We know who won that battle! His name is Jesus and He is the only Truth, the only Way and the only Life, and He came to set us free...DAILY! God's Word powerfully changed her life and it will powerfully change your life each day, if you read it!

As God continues to send us out with this message, we hear again and again, “This is so freeing!” Is reading the entire Bible a lost art? I think for many it may be. Wherever we go to take God's message, we ask the question, “How many of you have ever read the entire Bible?” Seldom do more than two or three hands go

up. Then we ask, “How many of you would like to read the entire Bible?” Every hand goes up! May we all be voices crying in the wilderness (Mark 1:3) to get people back to Him!

God has enlarged our borders for the sake of His Kingdom by blessing us with fellowships for teens, college/career, men, women, couples, and co-ed groups. As people are reading through His entire Word, God continues to equip His saints through His Word and the leading of His Spirit to do the work of the ministry that they have been called to. (Ephesians 4:11-16) The believers that are facilitating these groups don't feel like they have to be leaders, they just know THE Leader! They don't have to be experts they just know THE Expert. The only preparation for these facilitators is quality, connecting time with Him each day! We minister out of the abundance of our relationship with the Father. (John 15:5)

The believers, and yes, seekers, that come to these groups do so because they want to read relationally with Him through the entire Bible After all, is there any other book where you can literally converse and interact with the author while you are reading? They are also treasuring God's Word in their heart by memorizing Scripture weekly, in order to tell people what God says and not what they think. “Those who present their own ideas are looking for praise for themselves, but those who seek to honor the One who sent them are genuine and there is nothing false about them.” (John 7:18) “Let the Words of Christ, in all their richness, live in your hearts and make you wise. Use His Words to teach and counsel each other... and whatever you do or say, may it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ.”(Colossians 3:16-17) “Salt & Light “leaders tell their groups, “It is my job to help you accomplish your goal of reading through the entire Bible and memorizing Scripture.” It is very exciting to join God in His work and to watch all God is doing!

Working at the Relationship

It seems many people are working at the wrong thing...they are working at the work and not working at the relationship with Him. John 15:5 expresses God's heartfelt priority here. “I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” So the fruit comes from abiding! Let me say that again...the fruit comes from abiding! Abiding is unbroken fellowship, keeping short accounts with God, and being quick to confess. God did not create us to work for Him, but to have a relationship with Him... joining Him in His work as He invites us to be a part of what He is doing. Being together with Him is the focus. Oswald Chambers said it well, “God has not called us to anything but Himself, and everything else flows from that call.” Jesus ministered to other people out of the abundance of His relationship with the Father. “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...” (Matthew 6:33) Whenever we put other things first there is confusion and lack of peace.

The Battle is the Lord's

As we focus on our relationship with Him, the struggle will be making time to be with God every day. Jesus died to restore our relationship with God and time with Him is worth fighting for! We are in a battle! Being with Him is the root of the fruit...when we abide, we bear much fruit. Since the fruit comes from our relationship with God, doesn't it make sense that personal, relational time with God is where Satan is going to attack? It's our relationship with the Lord that makes Satan shake in his boots. And he will try to do everything to keep us away from our daily time with the Lord, to prevent us from reaping a harvest of fruit...lasting fruit! If Satan can get us to just work at the work and keep us away from the relationship he knows he has us. He knows we will get burned out working in our own strength...and burned is what he is after, in more ways than one! Let's face it: We are in a war and the enemy does not want us to have this kind of a relationship with a Holy God. But, Hallelujah! God is jealous for us and He wants us to feel the same about Him. The Holy Spirit will empower us to fight for a relationship with Him. He is worth every moment! You will see!

Empowered by the Holy Spirit to fight this battle, we meet with the Lord each day. During this time God does not want us to merely drive through but to get out of our car and go in. Each day, when we first come to the Lord, our minds are often already in 4th gear... we have to downshift to 1st gear, put it in park, turn off the engine, and get out of our car and go in. You may be thinking, “Yeah, but to be honest there are just some mornings I don't feel like reading the Word.” The greatest thing about God is He understands us completely! Just have a talk with Him and say, “Lord, You know how I am feeling this morning. Would you please give me the desire and strength to spend time with You?” You see, it is a win-win situation with God.

He doesn't let our weaknesses bother Him. He is bigger than our frailties! Remember, He's just waiting for you to ask. And He is more than ready to answer, you will see! John 17:3 says, "This is eternal life, that you might know Him, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent." Philippians 1:6 says, "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus," and Philippians 2:13 says, "It is God who is at work within you both to will and to work for His good pleasure." He just wants us to cooperate with Him when He comes and invites us to join Him in His work. The reason He invites us to join Him is because He wants to be with us! He doesn't need us, but He does want us!

It has never been clearer that God is not interested in our ability, but our availability. Even though there is an abundance of fruit, we have never done so little and seen so much: it's more of Him and less of us. (John 3:30) Isn't that what we are all after? He has just asked us to work at our relationship with Him, to show up when He invites us, and join Him in His work. Obediently we come to Him and He takes over. It is glorious! We never want to go back the other way. We meet with Him daily in His Word and through prayer! It will cost you a lot to follow Jesus like this, but it will cost you a whole lot more not to!

Your Resource Basket

As we pursue a relationship with God, all the things that God is teaching us from our time with Him in His Word (the Scriptures that you are memorizing, the insights that God gives others, sermons you hear, etc., will go into your *resource basket*. As we live our lives encountering those that God brings across our paths, we are asking God, "What is it that You want to say?" (not what do You want me to say?) The entire focus is on Him. We let Him go into our *resource basket*. When we ask Him, He will give us what we need...*He is intimately acquainted with all our ways*. Remember Matthew 10:19-20, "Do not be anxious about what you are to say or speak for it shall be given to you in that hour what you are to speak. For it won't be you doing the talking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." Also remember John 7:18, "Those who present their own ideas are looking for praise for themselves, but those who seek to honor the One who sent them are honorable and there is nothing false about them."

We frequently review what is in our resource baskets and then we ask Him what He wants to say or do. We watch and listen and make ourselves available to Him. Perhaps this is best illustrated by one of my quiet times. I was reading one day, feeling discouraged and defeated because I wasn't doing consistently those things I was reading about. Overwhelmed (sound familiar?), I started to close my Bible and the Lord said, "You know the problem here is this. I know that you can't do what you just read, but you don't know that you can't do what you just read. You see there is not one thing in this book that you can do 'apart from Me.' (John 15:5) But you can do all of this through Me who strengthens you. (Philippians 4:13) All I want to know is the heart of the matter. Do you want to do what you just read and if you do, then why don't you ask Me? Now go back through those verses that you felt defeated by and talk to Me and let Me know that you want to do what you just read. Pray back through them. I am just waiting for you to ask! Remember that I told you, 'I began a good work in you and I will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.' And I said, 'I am at work within you (I didn't say, 'you're at work within you') giving you the desire to obey Me and the power to do what pleases Me!' " (Philippians 1:6, 2:13)

Praying Through Scripture

Why do we pray through Scripture? In 1 John 5:14-15 God tells us, "This is the confidence you have in approaching Me, that if you ask anything according to My will, I hear you. And if you know that I hear you- whatever you ask- you know that you have what you asked of Me." [faith] We don't know how, when, or where He will respond. But when we pray through His Word (which is His will), we do know that we can be sure He will respond. And respond He does! Hallelujah, what a Savior! Jesus never mentioned unanswered prayer. He had the unlimited certainty of knowing that when He prayed for the Father's will, that prayer is always answered. Everything is a prayer request. He's just waiting for you to ask!

Let's apply Jesus' example. As we begin to meet with God each day, we should follow the Scriptures' invitation to first "enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise." (Psalm 100:4) Then instead of trying to open our own minds to understand the Scriptures we pray through Luke 24:45 and ask *Him to open our minds to understand the Scriptures*. We also ask Him, "Lord, may our hearts burn within us while You are speaking to us and teaching us. Would You please explain Your Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32) Pray

His Word back to Him. It is His will. He's just waiting for you to ask and when you do, hang on for the ride of your life because He will answer. Remember it is not the answer that you are after but the ONE WHO IS the answer!

And last, but certainly not least, remember to *take every thought captive* (2 Cor. 10:3-5) and make it a *prayer request*. Discernment, judgmental thoughts, criticism, everything that comes into these minds of ours becomes a *prayer request*. When *everything is a prayer request...* then you become a solution to the problem instead of a problem to the problem and your *vessel* stays clean, because your mind stays clean... it is "stayed on Thee." (Isaiah 26:3) In other words, praying immediately as you capture your thoughts keeps you out of trouble, and keeps others from getting in trouble or gets them out of trouble! Capture your thoughts before they capture you! *Much prayer, much power! No prayer, no power!* God does not need us to pray... but He loves for us to talk to Him. To help us do that consistently, He has us join Him in prayer. After all, Jesus does sit at the right hand of the Father and LIVES to intercede for us. So the next time you get that tap on the shoulder, you will know that He is inviting you to join Him in intercession! Wow! How intimate, He takes my breath away! No, He doesn't *need* me, but He definitely *wants* me... I like being wanted, how about you? Exodus 34:14 says, "You must worship no other gods but only the Lord, for He is a God who is passionate about His relationship with you!" May we all be a *voice crying in the wilderness* to get this message out.

**If you *give* a person a fish it will feed him/her for a day.
If you *teach* them how to fish, it will feed them for a lifetime!**

**This is the beginning of a personal
relationship with God, not a course in
Bible knowledge alone.**

Where Do I Begin?

Please write this first section in the front of your Bible:

Look for God's Character in:

Day 1 – Read Psalm 103

Day 2 – Read Isaiah 40:25-31, Romans 8:31-39, and Psalm 145

Day 3 – Read Psalm 139

Day 4 – Read Daniel 3

Day 5 – Begin Bible Overview

The Big Four:

- Genesis to Exodus 20,
- Matthew
- John
- Romans

Also in the back of your Bible you will keep an ongoing record of all the scripture verses you have memorized. Please write each reference as you memorize them.

Why are we writing this in our Bible?

So at all times you have a tool at your fingertips to use with a coworker, a neighbor, a friend, a family member. And you are free with confidence to say: "Hey, would you like to get together and read "some" of the Bible?"

Most Christians will never ask this question to a seeker or a new Christian or a Christian who is not growing, because they don't know "where to begin" with a person. Now you have the "how to" handy at all times, written in the front of your Bible! We are being "Intentional & Purposeful" & ready "in season & out."

Also have them copy this in their Bible too by looking at your Bible page and write this in the front of their Bibles, just like you did. They too will have this simple plan now at their fingertips!

Why because 2 Timothy 2:2 says "Take these things you have learned and teach them to faithful men who will teach others also." And Ephesian 6:4 says "...To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...that's why we are teaching you this.

Be sure that when the overview is completed that they go back and pick up Exodus 21 and move forward through the Old Testament. In the New Testament they will have already completed Matthew, so they will pick up in Mark and move forward through the New Testament. The goal is that you are moving forward in both testaments at your own pace. You can read some in the Old & some in the New each day if you like.

Just be sure you are checking everything off in your Bible & moving forward through both Testaments.

Also each day you will read a Psalm and a Proverb. When you finish Proverbs and Psalms as you are reading through the Bible you just keep starting them over. If you don't want to include this in your morning reading, you can do it in the evening.

Also record your memory verses in the back page of your Bible

Ok, now here's where you start...

Here's some food for thought. Most people's view of God is not completely accurate because they have only listened to other people's opinions about God. What people hear about Him may come from family and friends, philosophy, books, TV, radio, movies, etc., and often they have drawn conclusions about God based on inaccurate information and the traditions of men instead of the Word of God. The problem is they have not given God a chance to speak for Himself. People may have read bits and pieces from the Bible, but to accurately hear God speak they must have the *whole counsel of God*. For example, in Matthew 4:6 when Satan misquotes Scripture, Jesus responds with Scripture and says, "The Scriptures *also* say...." (that's the whole counsel of God!)

Remember, this is no ordinary book! This Book is the *Word of God* written to you, *up close and personal*, penned through over 40 men over a 1,500 year period, by the inspiration of God's Spirit. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Many of the writers never knew each other, yet all the books of the Bible fit together perfectly... don't take my

word for it, check it out! Did you know this book has sold more copies than any other book in the world? Did you know that more people have died for this book than any other book? It has also been burned more than any other book in the world! Just what is it about this Book that people would be willing to die for it, and that others would be threatened by it enough to want to burn it? You're on a journey to find out just that!

Common sense has it that none of us would want to spend time with someone if we have heard things that would make that person seem less than desirable. Unfortunately many people have an incorrect view of God based on what others have told them, and this prevents them from spending time with Him in His Word. When they finally go to the Word, the God they are about to meet may not at all be the same God they expected! Take a moment and allow yourself to be introduced to the True God and His awesome character. Go to His Word and let Him speak for Himself!

The First Week

Day One

Read Psalm 103 – Underline each word or phrase that speaks of God's character. What is He like?

Day Two

Read Isaiah 40: 25-31, Romans 8: 31-39 and Psalm 145 – Underline each word or phrase that speaks of God's character.

Day Three

Read Psalm 139 – Underline each word or phrase that describes the following:

- What does God know about me?
- What does God do for me?
- What have I discovered about God?

Day Four

Read Daniel 3 – Meet three men who believed what God said in Psalm 103 and Psalm 139. What words come to your mind to describe the three men in Daniel 3 and to describe the king?

Day Five

So, what's next? Have you ever read a novel or known anyone who has? Would you say that the Bible is similar in size to some novels? Well then, couldn't we agree that it is a possibility to read through the entire Bible? O.K., now that we have that settled, let's get started!

We recommend you read the *"The Big Four"* (Refer to "An Overview of the Bible – The Big Four.") first, which will give you an overview of the entire Bible, as well as equip you with a tool so that you can confidently ask someone, "Would you like to get together and read some of the Bible?" Most people will never ask this question to a non-believer because they don't know what to do. Now you have a tool!

Day Six

Today, and **from now on: Pick up where you left off the day before.** Perhaps some days read a chapter or more, while on other days you may delight in meditating and studying simply a verse or two. ASK God, He WILL show you! It's best, if you can, to spend time with God first thing in the morning. Then in the evening read one Psalm and one chapter of Proverbs. We all need our minds *washed* at the beginning and end of the day with the Truth! "For you will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free." (John 8:32) Who doesn't want to be free?

The Big Four

Overview of the Bible

1) **Genesis 1 – Exodus 20:**

The Old Testament is the foundation for the New Testament. (Luke 24: 27, 32)

A. Genesis 1 – 11: 4 Major Events (Creation, the Fall, the Flood, Tower of Babel) Themes:

- Attributes of God
- Where sin came from
- Judgment of God

B. Genesis 12 – 50: 4 Major People (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph) Themes:

- Promises of God
- Faithfulness of God

C. Exodus 1 – 20

Themes:

- God remembers His covenant to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Ex. 2:23, 24)
- Passover (Ex.12)
- Ten Commandments (Ex. 20)

2) **Matthew:** The link book to the Old Testament (Ch. 1) Themes:

- Jesus as King (Matt. 2:2)
- Jesus as the new lawgiver (Matthew 5 ties into Exodus 20)

3) **John:** Goes back to the beginning (John 1: 1-3)

Themes:

- Emphasis on belief (John 20:31)
- 7 Signs
- 7 “I Ams” demonstrate who Jesus is

4) **Romans:** Paul’s clear and logical explanation about the gospel (Rom. 1: 16-17) Themes:

- God’s righteousness
- Man’s sinfulness
- God’s solution

Why use the Big Four?

- Many people are no longer familiar with the Bible – this gets them into the Bible.
- Those who are familiar with the Bible have it in bits and pieces – this gives the big picture.
- This is Bible based – gets people into the Word on a personal basis and allows for self-discovery.
- God’s Word, not Bible study material, becomes the source of authority.
- People read the Bible on their own when not with you – extensive and intensive sowing.
- The habit of spending time in the Word begins forming and carries over after conversion.
- You can use this in small groups or one-on-one.
- This is an evangelism method that helps to produce disciples.

Read these books and look for the above-mentioned themes in each book. Begin praying for someone with whom to share this.

Reading Relationally

Revelations from the Holy Spirit often come from “Reading Relationally”. This means talking to God about what you are reading **while** you are reading His Word. For example: Interact with Him as you read, as you would in a conversation with a friend. Ask questions, ask Him to explain & clarify for you, give Him encouraging words of thanks, praise & amazement & exclamation. Remember John 10:27 “My sheep (that’s you) hear My voice, I know them and they follow Me. Pray this from Luke 24:45... “Lord, open my mind to understand the scriptures.” Ask Him...Lord, what do You want to say?” & when He speaks, respond to Him right then. Enjoy!

Imagine you have just invited a friend over for coffee. Your friend has come to hear about the wonderful trip you just took. Your friend kindly lets you know that they have an hour to visit and then they have to pick up their son. At your friend’s invitation, you begin sharing in great detail about your trip, the amazing things you saw and did, and the awesome things God taught you. It is obvious that your friend is listening with great interest, but they never comment on anything that you are sharing. Yes, there is eye contact--your friend is paying attention--but they never ask any questions, express wows, or interact with you over your story. Well the hour is up and they politely let you know that they must go pick up their son. You express how glad you are that they stopped by, and you say good-bye. Hmmm....you think, I am so glad my friend was here, but I feel empty. My friend never commented or asked questions...I know they were here for an hour, but the lack of interaction leaves me feeling disconnected and wondering if they really care. Were they really listening? I think this is how we can make God feel when we are reading His Word. When we don’t interact & dialogue with Him, I think He misses the interaction too.

Interestingly enough, a mutual friend pulls into the driveway and out your kitchen window you hear your friend that was just leaving, expressing in great detail how wonderful it was to hear about your amazing trip, the incredible things you did and saw, and God’s amazing handiwork in all your travels. At that moment I wonder, gee, why didn’t they share that with me? Let me suggest this: I believe that this is often what we do to God. Like the friend that was visiting & talking later to your mutual friend, we go “talk about” God after being with Him, but we don’t “talk to” God in response to what we are reading in His word “as” we are reading. We spend perhaps an hour with Him, we listen and maybe even take notes, but we never really engage with the Author of the Bible that we are reading. I spent too many years reading as an observer rather than meeting with our Savior personally for the relationship for which I was created. Miraculously, He desires to have an interactive conversation with us, literally, talking with us out of the pages of His Word (Heb. 4:12). We must remember to engage with Him at that moment while we are in His Word by:

1. Asking questions as we go
2. Respond in “amazement” to a particular character’s actions
3. Saying “Thank you.”
4. Expressing “wows” in response to what we just read
5. Confess “right then” that you aren’t doing what you are reading about but would love God to give you a “want to.”

These are just a few suggested examples of how we interact and there are assuredly many more!

The point is, it is not just that you are reading the Bible but “how” you are interacting with the Author and “that” you are interacting while you are reading. He doesn’t want us to “just read” and gather information and go perform it. He wants us to realize that He wants to be involved in the process with you as you are reading. He wants us to talk with Him while He is talking to us through His Word. We know how to do this because we naturally do it all the time with friends. And He wants us to do that with Him, our Companion and Friend. God doesn’t make something so important to Him, complicated. He wants us to realize that “we” cannot do one thing written in His Word alone, because “apart from Him, we can do nothing” (Jn. 15:5). But He wants us to realize that “we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us” (Philip. 4:13). He is just waiting for us to ask--and ask as we are reading-- not just when we are finished reading. Interact with Him as you would a friend over coffee. He doesn’t want to be treated like a business interaction or a mere acquaintance. Let’s face it--there is no other book in the whole world that you can interact with the Author **while** you are reading. This is called Reading Relationally. But you can do that with the Bible because it is the Living Word! I believe that God is merciful, but I believe He feels just like the person in my story who poured their heart out to their friend and then received no response or interaction during the course of their hour together. Let’s delight and bring abundant pleasure to the Lover of our souls and talk with Him throughout the pages of His Word as we journey with Him each morning in His love letter to us! Let’s not

just talk about God, but let's talk to Him as we are reading! Hang on for the ride of your life because He has treasures He wants to share from His heart to yours when you interact with Him! Try it...you will see! My Bible is full of me writing down God's responses to my questions and amazing insights that only He can give. As you experience relationship with God, nobody will have to "tell" you to talk about God and His words...you will be looking for an audience automatically out of the overflow of your relationship with God. Not only are you blessed but so are many others! Your genuine enthusiasm is contagious and makes people hungry to go and hear from God like that themselves! Now I must say it doesn't get any better than that! **So here is an example of Reading Relationally from Psalm 84.** Keep in mind when you are in a conversation with someone as you are listening you don't comment on every sentence they utter. In the same way as you are reading God's word relationally, you don't comment on every line you read, but when you have a question, comment etc., that's when you engage. Our conversation (sometimes silent or audible) is in caps below:

Psalm 84: 1-12

1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty. **(LORD, WHAT IS YOUR DWELLING PLACE LIKE ANYWAY? ("MY CHILD, YOU ARE MY DWELLING PLACE, KEEP IT CLEAN AND KEEP IT LOVELY"))** 2 I long, yes, I faint with longing to enter the courts of the LORD. With my whole being, body and soul, I will shout joyfully to the living God. **(LORD, I SO WANT TO WORSHIP YOU CONSTANTLY THIS WAY. I NOTICE THAT WHEN I AM IN A CRISIS THAT I AM MUCH QUICKER TO CLING TO YOU AND POUR OUT TO YOU WITH MY WHOLE BEING, BODY AND SOUL. AND AS MUCH AS I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT I REALLY DO THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING DIFFICULTIES IN MY LIFE AND CARING ENOUGH TO TRAIN ME BY ALLOWING CHALLENGING THINGS. PLEASE HELP ME TO REMEMBER THERE IS PURPOSE TO MY PAIN AS A PART OF THE WORK OF YOUR KINGDOM. (MY CHILD, AS I TEACH THIS TRUTH TO OTHERS THROUGH YOU, LISTEN, FOR IT IS A REMINDER TO YOU TOO.)** 3 Even the sparrow finds a home there, and the swallow builds her nest and raises her young— at a place near Your altar, O Lord Almighty, my King and my God! 4 How happy are those who can live in Your house, always singing Your praises. 5 Happy are those who are strong in the LORD, who set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. 6 When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs, where pools of blessing collect after the rains! **(OH LORD, ONLY YOU CAN TURN WEeping INTO REFRESING SPRINGS! AND IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH YOU BLESS US, NOT WITH "PUDDLES", BUT WITH "POOLS" OF BLESSINGS! WOW LORD, THANKS FOR THAT AMAZING INSIGHT YOU JUST GAVE ME, WHAT A WONDERFUL PICTURE! YOU ARE AWESOME! WHAT KIND OF GOD ARE YOU THAT CAN LOVE LIKE THIS?! I THANK YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF KNOWING YOU AND BEING TRAINED BY YOU. MY CHILD, MAY YOU SENSE MY PLEASURE OVER YOUR LOVE FOR ME. IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME THAT YOU KNOW THAT)** 7 They will continue to grow stronger, and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem. 8 O LORD God Almighty, hear my prayer. Listen, O God of Israel. 9 O God, look with favor upon the king, our protector! Have mercy on the one you have anointed. 10 A single day in Your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else! **(OH LORD MAY I LEARN TO BECOME MORE AND MORE INTIMATE WITH YOU THAT THIS IS THE CONTINUAL CRY OF MY HEART. LORD, WHAT ARE YOUR COURTS REALLY LIKE? MY CHILD, I LOVE THAT YOU ARE ASKING. KEEP READING THE PSALMS AND I WILL REVEAL THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION).** I would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God than live the good life in the homes of the wicked. 11 For the LORD God is our light and protector. He gives us grace and glory. No good thing will the LORD withhold from those who do what is right. 12 O LORD Almighty, happy are those who trust in You. **(FATHER, I KNOW THAT I AM NOT TRUSTING IN YOU RIGHT NOW OVER THE DECISIONS THAT I HAVE TO MAKE WHICH IS WHY I AM NOT CONTENT AND HAPPY. BUT RIGHT NOW I AM ASKING YOU TO GIVE ME A "WANT TO", TO TRUST YOU IN EVERY ASPECT OF THIS DECISION. I AM CHOOSING RIGHT NOW TO TRUST YOU AND TO STOP TRYING TO FIGURE THINGS OUT MYSELF. I SO DESIRE TO KEEP YOUR DWELLING PLACE CLEAN, SURRENDERED AND LOVELY! I LOVE YOU AND THANK YOU FOR BEING SO REAL AND SPEAKING TO ME TODAY! (AND MY CHILD, I LOVE THAT YOU ARE REAL WITH ME)**

Try it yourself...

Read... Psalm 86:1-17... Relationally: A Prayer of David

- ¹ Bend down, O LORD, and hear my prayer; answer me, for I need your help.
- ² Protect me, for I am devoted to you. Save me, for I serve you and trust you. You are my God.
- ³ Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am calling on you constantly.
- ⁴ Give me happiness, O Lord, for I give myself to you.
- ⁵ O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help.
- ⁶ Listen closely to my prayer, O LORD; hear my urgent cry.
- ⁷ I will call to you whenever I'm in trouble, and you will answer me.
- ⁸ No pagan god is like you, O Lord. None can do what you do!
- ⁹ All the nations you made will come and bow before you, Lord; they will praise your holy name.
- ¹⁰ For you are great and perform wonderful deeds. You alone are God.
- ¹¹ Teach me your ways, O LORD, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you.
- ¹² With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God. I will give glory to your name forever,
- ¹³ for your love for me is very great. You have rescued me from the depths of death.
- ¹⁴ O God, insolent people rise up against me; a violent gang is trying to kill me. You mean nothing to them.
- ¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.
- ¹⁶ Look down and have mercy on me. Give your strength to your servant; save me, the son of your servant.
- ¹⁷ Send me a sign of your favor. Then those who hate me will be put to shame, for you, O LORD, help and comfort me.

Read... Psalm 103 ... Relationally: A Psalm of David

- ¹ Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.
- ² Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me.
- ³ He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.
- ⁴ He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies.
- ⁵ He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's!
- ⁶ The Lord gives righteousness and justice to all who are treated unfairly.
- ⁷ He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel.
- ⁸ The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
- ⁹ He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever.
- ¹⁰ He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.
- ¹¹ For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.
- ¹² He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.
- ¹³ The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.
- ¹⁴ For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.
- ¹⁵ Our days on earth are like grass; like wildflowers, we bloom and die.
- ¹⁶ The wind blows, and we are gone— as though we had never been here.
- ¹⁷ But the love of the Lord remains forever with those who fear him. His salvation extends to the children's children
- ¹⁸ of those who are faithful to his covenant, of those who obey his commandments!
- ¹⁹ The Lord has made the heavens his throne; from there he rules over everything.
- ²⁰ Praise the Lord, you angels, you mighty ones who carry out his plans, listening for each of his commands.
- ²¹ Yes, praise the Lord, you armies of angels who serve him and do his will!
- ²² Praise the Lord, everything he has created, everything in all his kingdom. Let all that I am praise the Lord.

At Home and in Your Small Group

What basic things take place during typical “Salt & Light” Discipleship?

Each Week at Home

- Using the “Where Do I Begin?” guidelines, get started **reading relationally** though the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).
 - ... Each person reads relationally at her own pace through the entire Bible.
 - ... There is not one thing written in the Bible that you can accomplish on your own, but, *we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us*. Phil. 4:13
 - ... Focus on Him. Ask Him, “Lord, what is it that *You* want to say?” He’s just waiting for you to ask!
 - ... As you read, underline passages that God impresses on your heart and mind.
- Take notes in your **journal** about what God is saying to you
 - ... These might be special verses God points out to you
 - ... Thanks and praise to God
 - ... Confess any sin to Him
 - ... Bring Him your concerns or your questions, and your prayer requests!
- **Pray** back through the Scriptures the Lord has given you.
 - ... The Word of God is the Will of God, so you can expectantly wait for Him to answer when you are praying His Word. When, where, or how He will answer is in His timing, but you know He will, because He says He will! (1 John 5:14-15)
- Add to your **resource basket** all the things God is teaching you.
 - ... Write down your new memory verse on an index card for each week. You will use this card during your sharing time in the group
 - ... This verse is one that God has impressed on your heart to memorize.
 - ... Memorizing then is easier because *He has spoken to you!*
- **Review:**
 - ... Review all of your memory verses regularly and often.
 - ... Treasures God has spoken to you through others
 - ... Messages you hear from Christian leaders
 - ... Insights the Lord is revealing during your time with Him

Before you come back to group

Take a few moments before you come to prayerfully go through all of your week’s journaling and ask God which things He would like you to share with the group.

- ... You will be sharing where you are reading and what insights God impressed on you in the book you are reading from
- ... You do not need to share everything.
- ... Be mindful of the time and size of your group so that everyone has a chance to share
- ... Write down any specific prayer requests you may ask your group to pray for you.

Be Prepared! Now you’re ready!!

Weekly with the large and small group

6:00 – 6:45 - Leadership Training: All **Leaders and Co-Leaders** meet for Prayer, Scripture Review, Share, Teaching and Discipleship.

6:30 – 6:45 - Informal Fellowship in the Lobby with all “Salt & Light” Discipleship groups

6:45 – 7:00 - Worship (all groups)

7:00 – 7:20 - Teaching Time to all groups (from facilitator up front)

7:20 – 8:55 - Individual Discipleship Groups meet

7:20 - 7:35 - Scripture Memory Review with a partner. (Review 5 different verses each week, so that all the verses you have already memorized eventually get reviewed, then start all over again. New verse for the week will be shared during the time you share your Quiet Time.)

7:35 - 7:45 - Reading Relationally as a group, using the passage selected by the group leader

7:45 - 8:45 - New Scripture Memory Verse and Quiet Time Sharing

- **First person volunteers to share:** they say their new verse, they tell the group what Bible passage (chapter/verses) they will share from. Entire group turns to that passage. First person shares their **Quiet Time**, their **“take away”** & **words describing God’s character** from the chapter they are sharing from.
- **Second person volunteers to pray:** pray for the first person. Then, after praying, the second person shares their new verse and their Quiet Time. This continues giving each group member an opportunity to pray and share until the final person shares. The last person to share is prayed for by the person who went first.
- **Reminder:** Your “take away” is your “application” from what the Lord is saying to you. You are sharing your personal response to God’s Word. What are you “taking away” as a result? Please be specific. This helps the next person pray more specifically for you.
- **The “Golden Thread”:** When everyone is done sharing, take time to discover what the **“Golden Thread”** was for the evening. Was there a common theme in what everyone shared?

8:50 - Prayer Requests - each person writes down their prayer requests on an index card and gives their card to their Discipleship group Leader. Leader shuffles cards, then each person picks a card. The card you select is the person you will pray for during the week. (To save time, you may also come to the meeting with your prayer request cards already written.)

8:55 - 9:00 Closing Song – All groups.

Each Week at in Your Small Group

- Each small group is led by an assigned “Salt & Light” leader
 - ... The leader will facilitate, guiding and directing through the schedule
 - ... all communication and follow up is done through the leader with the assistance of her co-leader
 - ... occasionally we will alter the regular schedule
- Pray together for the Lord’s presence and insight and for our hearts and minds to be open.
- Everyone has an opportunity to share their Scripture memory verse.
- During our time together we will share such things as:
 - ... How did God’s Word speak to you?
 - ... How did you see God at work?
 - ... How did God answer prayer?
 - ... Be ready to answer the questions: What is your personal, practical application? What is your “take-away”?

At the end of each evening after everyone has shared you will discover together the “gold thread” (Exodus 28) that ties together all that your group has shared.

Conclusion

Moving Ahead

We all like to accomplish a goal. **Note your progress.** For example, when you finish reading Chapter 1 of Genesis, put a check mark beside that chapter. Do the same for the rest of the chapters in Genesis. Then, when you complete the entire book of Genesis, turn to the Table of Contents in the front of your Bible. There are 66 books listed there. Put a check mark beside Genesis. Now, how many books do you have left to go? That's right: 65! Remember that we suggest you first read Genesis through Exodus 20, followed by Matthew, John, and Romans, in that order. Then proceed on to the rest of the Bible remembering to read a Psalm and a Proverb each night (repeat the Psalms and Proverbs each time you finish the books). When you are finished reading the entire Bible, share what you have done with someone you know and celebrate your victory by doing something special, like going out to lunch or dinner!

What in the world are you going to do now that you have finished reading the entire Bible? That's right: start over! It is most assuredly the **Book without bottom!** You will never tire of hearing His voice! For your second time through you could try reading the Bible in a different translation.

Words of Encouragement

Then **pray through Luke 24:45**, "Lord, please open my mind to understand the Scriptures." (This instead of you *trying* to open your own mind to understand.) Also ask Him to "teach and explain His word to you so that your heart may burn within you while He is speaking." (Luke 24:32) Remember, do not just *read* the Bible, but **read relationally**. After all, is there any other book that while you are reading, you can literally converse and interact with the author?

Pray for a desire to *listen to God speak to you* as you read His Word. Ask Him to do just that! He's just waiting for you to ask and He loves that you want to. How will you know God is speaking to you? Will a bush catch on fire? Will a thundering voice peal through the heavens? No, it's not that mysterious. It can simply be a verse that seems to *jump out* at you while you are reading, or a verse that seems to *speak* right to an issue or situation in your life. It's truly that easy!

This is the beginning of a **personal relationship with God**, not a course in Bible knowledge alone. Before you begin reading each day, do as the Scriptures say in Psalm 100:4, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and Be sure to **underline** anything you sense the Lord is speaking to you about as you are reading. Remember, this is no ordinary book! This Book is *the Word of God* written to you, *up close and personal*.

Let me also encourage you during your **first time reading through the Bible**, to make it a point to find out what God is like and to discover His character for yourself. If you daily read the Bible and **search for God's character**, you will come to know Him intimately, in a deeper way. That is a promise, and an exciting one at that! You will see. This will give you a balanced view of what He is really like, and you will find Him irresistible, kind, patient, loyal, a *Man of His Word*, forgiving, long-suffering, and serious about what He says to you!

This is the most important step, and critical in developing your **relationship with God**. Why? Because most likely, you are not going to trust someone you do not know. Walking with God is all about trusting Him. Again, you are encouraged to work your way through the Bible daily. Take notes and think about what He is really like from whichever passages or chapters you are reading each day.

A Word about Commitment

We have been given such an unbelievable opportunity to allow God to Glorify Himself by uniting us together by the power of the Holy Spirit in our group setting. 1 Corinthians 13:9 describes that for now we "know" only in part. With that in mind we all have our "part" in the body of Christ. When you join a group you are actually bringing a part of the very understanding of God and His Character, taught to you though the Word and experienced by you through your personal relationship with Jesus. That part is greatly needed by the whole body!! And guess what? The others in your group will be bringing their part too. A part that you need desperately also. By the power of the Holy Spirit God will reveal a greater revelation to all of us. Isn't that just amazing?! It is of utmost importance that you are faithful to your commitment to the others in your group by coming every week. We understand there would be occasion that you could not make a particular meeting. We ask that you would contact your leader and let her know. Leave any prayer requests for her to pass on to the others so that your prayer needs continue to be presented during your absence.

Food for Thought That Bears Repeating

The Bible was penned by over forty men over a 1,500 year period, through the inspiration of God's Spirit (2Timothy 3:16-17). Many of these men never knew each other, yet all the books of the Bible fit together perfectly. This Book has been burned more than any other book in the world, and more people have died for this Book than any other book. Just what is it about this Book that people would die for it or feel threatened enough by it to burn it? You are about to set out on a personal journey that will lead you into an intimate relationship with the Author of The Book! Will you prayerfully consider putting all other reading material aside until you get through the Bible for the first time? You will be glad you did!

May you be richly blessed and changed as you meet with Him each day. HANG ON FOR THE RIDE OF YOUR LIFE!

**HE IS ANYTHING BUT BORING!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE IS IRRESISTIBLE!!
YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT!!!**

Keep the Standard High

From Daily With The King

By: W. Glyn Evans

I must adopt a workable standard in my dealings with others...

The standard must be biblical and it must be workable. A departure from either will spell failure.

The standard is simple: absolute conformity to an ideal; and on the other hand, wholehearted compassion for the one who fails the ideal. I believe both elements of this standard are biblical and workable. I believe both elements are essentially biblical, that is, God uses this standard in His dealings with us.

I must never discard the ideal. If I do, there is no point whatever in going on with this discipleship business. If I say to myself (and others), "Trust Christ as Savior, but sin all you please," I have obviously tied myself up in a deadly contradiction. On the other hand, if I say, "Trust Christ as Savior, but never sin again," I have placed upon myself a burden that is too much for flesh and blood to bear. So I live on the razor's edge of an exciting adventure-reaching for the purest ideal while encouraging myself not to give up if I slip and stumble en route.

This relieves me of tension with my fellow Christian workers. Failure to reach the ideal is not disaster, provided, of course, there is proper recognition of the fault and proper contrition regarding it. But upward we go in our next try, always aiming where God wants us to be, always trusting His power to get us there. The flesh may momentarily stall us, but by God's grace it will not permanently restrain us. Believers are born to victory, and His inward driving power will always propel us higher. For we "have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him."
Colossians 3:10

Resources for Your Encouragement

How to Have a Meaningful Quiet Time (adapted from an article by Adrian Rogers)

"Oh how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day." Psalm 119:97

Christianity is not a legal relationship, it is a love relationship. Ten thousands of "don't do this & don't do that" will never make you one bit more like the Lord Jesus Christ. It is Jesus Himself who makes you like Him. But you need to spend time with Him. I want to give you five factors for spending some quiet time with the Lord each day.

Time

You must find the right time. Your quiet time should last at least half an hour. But some time is better than no time, so if you can't start at thirty minutes, begin with ten. It should be your very best time. Don't give the Lord your leftovers. And don't try to find time - make time, and make it a priority. Also find time early in the day. Psalm 5:3 says, "... in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up." You don't take the trip and then read the map, do you? Spend time alone with God to begin your day.

Preparation

A quiet time is fellowship with a Holy God. There are a few things you can do to be prepared for this time. First, be physically alert and if you are not ask Him to help you with that. Find a time when the "cobwebs" are out of your mind and you can think clearly. Second, be mentally aware. Be focused, and know He's there. Emotion doesn't really have all that much to do with it. And third, be morally pure and clean. Some people don't have a quiet time because they feel uncomfortable looking God in the face with sin in their lives. This would be a good time to stop and confess your sins to the Lord and allow Him to cleanse you. He's just waiting for you to ask, and loves that you want to restore your fellowship with Him.

Place

Find a place where you can focus. Jesus said enter into your closet and pray (see Matthew 6:6). That simply means find a place of isolation where you can shut the door on the world and open the windows to heaven. Jesus sought out places where He could be alone, and so should you.

Provisions

In order to have an effective quiet time, you need the right tools. Here are some tools I use:

A readable Bible - Invest in one with plenty of room to jot notes in the margins.

A prayer journal - Expect God to give you something and write it down. Also use it to record things you're praying about.

How to Proceed Finally, may I recommend some procedures to follow in your quiet time?

Get still and quiet. The Bible says in Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God." Focus your mind on Him. Calm down, relax, and recognize His presence. Take a deep breath and focus your thoughts on the Lord.

Get into the Word of God. It's better to start by reading the Bible than it is to start in prayer. It is more important for you to hear from God, even than for God to hear from you. God already knows all about you, but you need to know a lot more about Him.

Read the Bible for quality and not quantity. It's good to have a goal to read the Bible through in a year or so. Also, devotional books are wonderful. But again, this is not the place for them. This is the time when you simply read the Bible, asking God to open your mind to understand the scriptures.

Meditate As you focus on the Word of God and meditate, let it permeate you.

Record what God has given you. Write down what God says to you and what He tells you to do. It doesn't have to be flowery. You're not writing it for publication or to impress other people.

Now you're ready to pray. When you pray, pour out your soul. Be natural and honest with God. Tell Him how you feel. Pray out loud. It keeps your mind on track and enables you to stay focused.

Begin to share out of your quiet time. God did not make us to be reservoirs; He made us to be conduits. Tell others what is God is showing you.

Finally, obey what God tells you. Your spiritual train is running on two rails. One is revelation and the other is obedience. And if either rail stops, your train stops.

Learn to obey the Word of God.

I pray these simple suggestions will help you have a daily quiet time in the presence of our loving, almighty, powerful God.

Your Quiet Time

God's Word is our Daily Bread.

Quiet Time in the Morning

Meeting with God in the morning is a preparation for the day, a time for spiritual cleansing and a teaching time...spiritual counsel from the Almighty Counselor. **Luke 21:38**, And all the people would get up early in the morning to come to Him in the temple and listen.

Isaiah 50:4 The Lord God has given me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple.

Psalms 88:13 But I, O Lord, have cried out to You for help, and in the morning my prayer comes before You.

Psalms 90:14 O Satisfy us in the morning with Your loving kindness, that we may sing for joy and be glad.

Psalms 5:3 In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice; in the morning I will eagerly order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.

Psalms 143:8 Let me hear Your loving kindness in the morning, for I trust in You; teach me the way in which I should walk; For to You I lift up my soul.

Mark 1:35 And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place and was praying there.

Psalms 59:16 But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength; yes, I shall joyfully sing of Your loving kindness in the morning for You have been my stronghold and a refuge in the day of distress.

Psalms 119:9, 11 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word. Your Word I have treasured in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

Peter 2:2 Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.

Hebrews 4:12-13 For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart, and there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it, for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

2Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Psalms 1:1-3 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither, and in whatever he does, he prospers.

Jeremiah 30:2 Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, "Write all the Words which I have spoken to you in a book. (i.e. Journaling)

Jesus Christ ministered to other people out of the Abundance of His Relationship with the Father!

John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing (unbroken fellowship with Him).

John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

As You Come to Him

Prepare	<u>Psalm 27:8</u> – My heart has heard You say, ‘Come and talk with Me.’ And my heart responds, ‘Lord, I am coming.’
Remember	<u>Hebrews 4:14-16</u> - Let us cling to Him and never stop trusting Him. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses... Therefore, let us come boldly, with confidence to the Throne of Grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need.
Enter with Thanksgiving	<u>Psalm 100:4</u> - Enter His gates with Thanksgiving and into His courts with Praise.
Confess	<u>1 John 1:9</u> – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness
Ask	<u>Luke 24:45</u> - Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.
Desire	<u>Luke 24:32</u> - They said to one another, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?’
Believe/Faith	<u>1 John 5:14-15</u> – This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him
Confidence	<u>Acts 4:13</u> – Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.
Result of being with Him	<u>Luke 19:40</u> – But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, ‘Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!’ He replied, ‘If they keep quiet, the stones (rocks) will cry out.’
With Him = Much Fruit	<u>John 15:5</u> – I am the Vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.
Fact	<u>Exodus 34:14</u> – You must worship no other gods, but only the Lord, for He is a God who is passionate about His relationship with you!

Quiet Time Resources:

Make sure each day you look for God’s Character: Each day discover “**What is God like?**” from the chapter you are reading. Record what you read in a journal or notebook.

Example: What is God Like? Faithful, loyal, corrects, loving etc.

More Helps: As you have your Quiet Time each day, this **SPECK** example may serve you well:

- S** - is there a sin for me to avoid?
- P** - is there a promise to claim? A praise to give? A prayer to pray?
- E** - is there an example for me to follow?
- C** - is there a command for me to obey?
- K** - is there knowledge for me to learn, especially about God or his discernment about a situation?

Another approach.....Also consider:

- **Observation** answers the question: What does the passage say?
- **Interpretation** answers the question: What does the passage mean?
- **Application** answers the question: How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?

What is Inductive Bible Study?

Inductive Bible study consists of three component parts, which we will look at separately, but which frequently overlap in practice. These three parts are observation, interpretation, and application.

Observation answers the question: What does the passage say? It is the foundation which must be laid if you want to accurately interpret and properly apply God's Word. Have you ever read a book, chapter, or verse of the Bible and five minutes later been unable to remember anything you have read? So often we read the Bible with our eyes but not with our mind. There are several reasons for this. Either we think God's Word will magically make an impression on us without any effort on our part, or we don't really believe we can understand what we've read, or we are waiting for the pastor to teach on this section of Scripture so we'll know what to believe.

Often, however, we forget what we have read simply because we don't know what to look for in the text. Because observation is discovering what the passage is saying, it requires time and practice. You'll discover that the more you read and get to know a book of the Bible, the more its truths will become obvious to you. You'll be awed at the wealth of spiritual riches contained in even the shortest books of the Bible—and you will have discovered it yourself! You will know that you know!

Interpretation answers the question: What does the passage mean? And the basis for accurate interpretation is always careful observation. Interpretation is the process of discovering what the passage means. As you carefully observe Scripture, the meaning will become apparent. However, if you rush into interpretation without laying the vital foundation of accurate observation, your understanding will be colored by your presuppositions—what you think, what you feel, or what other people have said, rather than what God's Word says.

Interpretation is not necessarily a separate step from observation, for often, as you carefully observe the text, at that very moment you begin to see what it means. Thus, interpretation flows out of observation.

However, interpretation can also involve separate actions or steps that go beyond merely observing the immediate text. One of these exercises is investigating cross-references. First and foremost, let Scripture interpret Scripture. You may also use other helps, such as word studies or the evaluation of resources such as commentaries and Bible dictionaries to check your conclusions or to supplement your understanding of the historical or cultural setting of the text.

What we are going to do is to give you principles of interpretation and offer special sections to guide you in handling different types of writing, including figures of speech, parables, and allegories. We'll also show you how to do word studies and how to use Bible study tools that will greatly enhance your learning. It's going to be exciting — and so enlightening!

Application answers the question: How does the meaning of this passage apply to me? Usually this is the first thing we want to know when we read the Bible, but proper application actually begins with belief which then results in being and doing. Once you know what a passage means, you are not only responsible for putting it into practice in your own life, but accountable if you don't! Ultimately, then, the goal of personal Bible study is a transformed life and a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ.

Application is not a third step in the inductive process. Rather, application takes place as you are confronted with truth and decide to respond in obedience to that truth. The basis for application is 2 Timothy 3:16-17: All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

When you know what God says, what He means, and how to put His truths into practice, you will be equipped for every circumstance of life. To be equipped for every good work of life—totally prepared to handle every situation in a way that honors God—is not only possible, it is God's will. And that's what you will learn how to do if you will apply these study principles. Oh, the hundreds of stories we could tell you about what God has done because people disciplined themselves to know His Word in this way. It would thrill your heart! But right now stories aren't our purpose; getting you into the Word inductively is! Then, friend, you can tell your own story! We'd love to hear it!

How Observation, Interpretation, and Application Relate to Each Other

Accurate interpretation and correct application rest on the accuracy of your observations. Therefore, it is vital that you develop observation skills, even if at first they seem time-consuming or you feel less than adequate and even awkward doing them. Studying inductively is a learning process that does not happen overnight. It happens by

doing—doing over and over again, until the doing becomes almost a habit, and a wonderful one at that.

As you go through the inductive process, you'll sometimes find observation, interpretation, and application happening simultaneously. God can give you insight at any point in your study, so be sensitive to His leading. When words or passages make an impression on you, stop for a moment and meditate on what God has shown you. Bring the plumb line of truth against what you believe and how you are living.

When you know what God says, what He means, and how to put His truths into practice, you will be equipped for every circumstance of life.

Through a diligent study of God's Word, under the guidance of His Spirit, you'll drop a strong anchor that will hold in the storms of life. You will know your God. And when you know your God, not only will you be strong, but you will do great exploits for Him (Daniel 11:32). *(Article adapted from How to Study the Bible by Kay Arthur (Harvest House Publishers © 2001.))*

"Inductive Bible Study" the "How To"

Inductive Bible study is an approach to God's Word focusing on three basic steps that move from a general overview to specifics. Through these three steps, we apply inductive reasoning, which is defined as the attempt to use information about a specific situation to draw a conclusion. The steps are **observation** (what does it say?), **interpretation** (what does it mean?), and **application** (what does it mean for my life?). Inductive Bible study is a valuable tool in understanding and applying the principles of God's Word. Inductive Bible study can be done on many different levels. The shorter version is good for a brief devotional. The more extensive study is wonderful for digging deeper into the mind and heart of God.

A sample verse to illustrate the method is 2 Samuel 9:1: "David asked, 'Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?'" As we **observe** this verse and ask ourselves "**what does it say?**", we see that David simply wants to know if there are any living relatives of Saul's that he may be kind to for Jonathan's sake. Whether or not there are any relatives or why David is asking are to be determined in the next step. The first step of observing the verse is generally confined to a simple understanding of what the verse is saying. At this first step, there may be words or phrases that are unfamiliar to us, in which case checking different Bible translations is helpful.

The second step—interpretation (what does it mean?)—requires a more in-depth examination than the first step. At this step, we want to be careful to find the meaning of the verse in its context. For our sample verse, as we look into the background of the incident we find that the relationship between David, God's anointed future king of Israel, and Jonathan, son of King Saul, was very close. Jonathan had saved David's life when Saul was pursuing him (1 Samuel 20). David had described their relationship as "extraordinary" and he mourned Jonathan's death greatly (2 Samuel 1:25-27). In this context, we see David wanting to do something nice for any of his relatives who might still be alive. His love and loyalty were still strong even though Jonathan had been out of his life for some time. David did not sit passively and wonder about this; he took action and searched for these people.

The third step in inductive Bible study is the practical **application** of the principles (**what does it mean to me?**). Among the ways we can apply our sample verse to our own lives is to see David's action as one of love and loyalty. We might ask ourselves: How loyal am I to my earthly friends and my heavenly Friend? Am I casual and passive about the relationships? Or am I willing to go out of my way to honor them? What can I do this week to let them know that I love them? Based on my detailed research, what did God communicate to me? Has He given me any commands, warnings, promises, or encouragement? Part of the application process is asking ourselves where we go from here. How can we use what we have learned from the passage in the future? A crucial part of any Bible study is asking God to implement the principles into our lives and praying for His wisdom as we go forward with this knowledge.

It is important to note that, while inductive Bible study or any other method is helpful to Christians as we delve into God's Word, ultimately it is the Spirit of God who opens the Scriptures to us because He has first opened our hearts to Truth. It is the Spirit who interprets spiritual truth to those who are spiritual. The natural man does not and cannot understand spiritual truth (2 Corinthians 2:12-14). So before attempting any Bible study method, we must be sure we have the Holy Spirit living in our hearts (1 Corinthians 6:19) through faith in Christ as Lord and Savior. (Adapted from GotQuestions.org)

The Wake-Up Call

Look at the Tester, not the tempter. John 8:36 – “If the Son has set you free, you are free indeed.”

What if Satan called a worldwide convention, and in his opening address to his evil angels, he said, “We can’t keep the people from going to church. We can’t keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can’t even keep them from conservative values. But, we can do something else. We can keep them from forming an intimate, abiding relationship with God. If they gain that connection with God, our power over them is broken.

So let them go to church, let them have their conservative lifestyles, but steal their time, so they can’t gain that experience with God. This is what I want you to do, angels. Distract them from gaining hold of their God and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!” “How shall we do this?” shouted his angels.

“Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent un-numbered schemes to occupy their minds,” he answered. “Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, then borrow, borrow, borrow. Convince the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6 or 7 days a week, 10- 12 hours a day, so they can afford their lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their family fragments, soon, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work.

Over stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still small voice. Entice them to play their car stereo whenever they drive, to keep the TV, smartphones and their PCs going constantly in their homes. And see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non biblical, contradicting music constantly. This will jam their minds and break that union with God.

Fill their coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, sweepstakes, mail order catalogs, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services, and false hopes.

Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted, disquieted, and unprepared for the coming week. Don’t let them go out in nature to reflect on God’s wonders. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts, and movies instead.

And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotion.

Let them be involved in soul-winning. But crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from God. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause.”

It was quite a convention in the end. And the evil angels went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians and Jews everywhere to get busy, busy, busy and rush here and there.

Has the devil been successful at his scheme? You be the judge.

How about this definition of BUSY? **B**eing **U**nder **S**atan’s **Y**oke

Has the Lord spoken to your heart? Please stop and have a talk with Him. If He has exposed anything that needs to change in your life, make it a prayer request. He is just waiting for you to ask! Remember, “He rides across the Heavens to help you, across the skies in majestic splendor” (Deuteronomy 33:26), and “He is passionate about His relationship with you. (Exodus 34:14)

You Can Memorize Scripture

If you have had trouble memorizing Scripture, don't be discouraged. Read on for insights and ideas on how to memorize God's Word.

You Can Memorize Scripture! Your memory is good! Do you think you have a poor memory? Wait a minute. What's your address and phone number? How about all the information you know by heart about your job? How about all the people you call by name? Or the facts and figures you can recite about your favorite sport or hobby? You see, your memory is really pretty good after all. Anything is easy to memorize when you are really interested in it, or use it often. A good memory is not something you either have or don't have. It is a skill, and like other skills, it can be improved. Attitude is what makes the difference. Adopt an attitude of confidence in Scripture memory and you will develop skill in memorizing. Here's some additional encouragement: You can count on God to help you memorize Scripture. He wants His Word to be in your heart.

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.” Deuteronomy 6:6 “Let the Words of Christ dwell in you richly.” Colossians 3:16

Principles for Memorizing Scripture

As you start to memorize the verse:

- Study the Scripture Memory ...each week. (Review each week)
- Read the context of the verse in your Bible to understand the setting.
- Get a clear understanding of what the verse means by reading the verse in other translations.
- Read the verse through several times thoughtfully, aloud, or in a whisper.
- Each time you read the verse, say the topic, reference, verse, and then the reference.
- Discuss the verse with God in prayer, and continue to seek His help if you want to be able to

While you are memorizing the verse:

- Work on the verse aloud as often as possible.
- Learn the topic, reference, and first phrase.
- Continue to memorize by adding an additional phrase when you are comfortable with the previous phrase.
- Choose a time when your mind is free from outside distractions.
- As you memorize and review the verse, think about how it applies to your own life and circumstances.
- Use spare moments while waiting, walking or driving to review and meditate on verses.

After you have memorized the verse and reference correctly:

- It is helpful to write the verse out. This deepens the impression in your mind.
- Review the verse immediately and frequently in the first few days after learning the verse.
- REVIEW! REVIEW! REVIEW! Repetition is the best method to deepen your impressions of verses.

Praying Through Scripture

Jesus prayed Scripture and He is our example.

Why Pray Scripture?

Jesus is our model. With the Scriptures, He opposed temptation and answered His critics.

He even prayed the words of the Psalms from the cross.

Praying the Scriptures is talking to God in His own language. How does a baby learn to talk? By listening to His Father.

God's Word gives the Spirit His two-edged weapon. Ephesians 6:17 says, "Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." Fill your prayers with the powerful weapon of God's Word. No soldier dares report to duty without a weapon. His life depends on it. So does yours! Bring the power of the Word into your praise and prayer. Amy Carmichael wrote, "The only thing that matters in our warfare is the faithful use of His precious blade, the Word."

God binds Himself to His promises, so learn to plead the promises of God. D.L. Moody said, "Tarry at a promise and God will meet you there." Numbers 23:19 tells us, "Has God said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" Every promise is like a check, its value is nothing more than a piece of paper until it is cashed at the bank. Praying the Word of God "cashes" His promises. At the age of 90, George Mueller said that he never had an unanswered prayer. His secret? "I always pray with an open Bible, filling my praise and petition with God's Word. I pray God's promises, His declarations concerning Himself. I pray His names and titles by which He reveals His nature and character. I pray the rights He gave the believer to bold and confident access. When a need arose, I spread them all out before God who hears His children. My heavenly Father will not break His word to His own child."

Praying the Word of God builds faith. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Romans 10:17

Praying the Scriptures assures that you are praying the mind and will of God. Charles Spurgeon said that our prayers are according to the mind of God when they are according to the Word of God.

Praying God's Word seals the answer. Promises predict the answers. They point to what to expect. Isaiah 55:11 says that God's Word never returns to Him void without accomplishing what He desires. Don't worry on your knees and call it prayer.

Praying God's Word brings God's power into our praying. In the Amplified Bible, Luke 1:37 says, "For with God nothing is ever impossible, and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment." Mary clearly understood it this way. She replied, "May it be to me as you have said." Luke 1:38.

Praying Scriptures orchestrates prayer agreement for multiplied power. Leviticus 26:8 says, "Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you." Deuteronomy 32:30 refers to one man chasing a thousand, or two putting ten thousand to flight.

How to Pray Scriptures

Read a verse or Scripture passage. Ask God what He sees. He will give you a praise, a confession, or a petition based on the passage. Pray it back to God. Praying the Word of God is God-oriented praying (a good antidote to self-centered shopping list praying). In praying a promise, focus on the God of the promise, whose name and character guarantee the fulfillment of the promise. Seek His face, not His hand. Gaze at God, glance at the requests. Match His attributes and names to your needs.

Let's Be Honest

How can we use Scripture to deal with our feelings?

This is a reminder to all of us that we need to recognize feelings as just that – feelings. We need to offer our feelings to God, and not condemn or judge those among us who honestly share their emotions (feelings) with us. A feeling or emotion is not a sin. How we respond to a feeling determines whether we will sin or not.

The Lord desires truth and honesty at the deepest level and wants us to experience His love, forgiveness, and power in all areas of our lives. Experiencing His love does not mean that all of our thoughts, emotions, and behaviors will be pleasant and pure. It means that we can be real, feeling pain and joy, love and anger, confidence and confusion. The Psalms give us tremendous insight about what it means to be honest with the Lord. David and other psalmists wrote and spoke honestly about the full range of their responses to situations.

For example, David expressed his anger with the Lord because he felt abandoned by Him:

I say to God my Rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?” (Psalm 42:9, NIV)

At times, David was very angry with others, and he expressed his anger to the Lord in terms that reveal the depth of his feelings:

Break the teeth in their mouths, O God: tear out, O Lord, the fangs of the lions! Let them vanish like water that flows away; when they draw the bow, let their arrows be blunted. Like a slug melting away as it moves along, like a stillborn child, may they not see the sun. Before your pots can feel the heat of the thorns – whether they be green or dry – the wicked will be swept away. (Psalm 58:6-9, NIV)

David wrote of his despair about difficult situations:

My heart is in anguish within me: the terrors of death assail me. Fear and trembling have beset me; the horror has overwhelmed me. (Psalm 55: 4-5, NIV)

And he communicated his despair to the Lord:

Why do you hide Your face and forget our misery and oppression? We are brought down to the dust; our bodies cling to ground. (Psalm 44: 24-25, NIV)

Sometimes he was confused:

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? (Psalm 13: 1-2, NIV)

Sometimes David communicated his love for the Lord:

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? (Psalm 42: 1-2, NIV)

At times David trusted in the Lord:

The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. (Psalm 27: 1-3, NIV)

At other times he was filled with praise for God:

I will exalt You, my God the King: I will praise Your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise You and extol Your name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom. (Psalm 145: 1-3, NIV)

In Conclusion, think about this:

These passages demonstrate that God, who spoke of David as a man after His own heart, wants us to be open and honest with Him about all of our emotions, not just the pleasant ones.

It is clear after reading David's conversations with God; we have permission to be completely honest with our Heavenly Father. If we aren't dumping every last pain, hurt, discouragement, disappointment, and all of our other true feelings on God, it will leak out and get dumped on others. You can count on it! Whether this happens verbally or non-verbally...it **will** come out!

It is a lot of work to walk with God like this. But He wants to do the work in us. That is why pursuing a relationship with God is the critical priority over everything else in our life! God invites us to *come to Him*, (Hebrews 4:16; Psalm 27:8 NLT) to pour all this out. What is the result? We will become closer to Him because we haven't left Him out of the process. He wants to be included! And, after He listens, He wants to tell us the Truth. He is into His children being set free. After all what Father wouldn't be?

When we dump our anger or hurts on a close friend, what is the result? As they listen to us and pray with us, we connect with them and feel that someone understands us. We have an Ultimate Someone who is the Lover of our soul...Jesus Himself! He is just waiting for you to come and "let it all out!" David's talks with God clearly let us know we have permission to be open and honest about our feelings, why else would God have allowed all of those talks to be in His Word! Once again...the *Truth has set us free!*

If you want to know more about Salt & Light, check out our website at www.saltandlightgroup.com

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AFTER READING ALL THIS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ASK!

ALL FOR HIS GLORY

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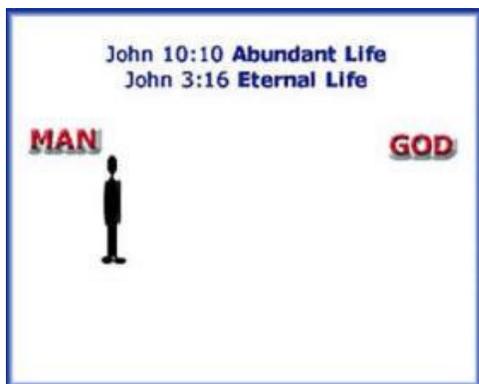
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Explaining the Gospel.



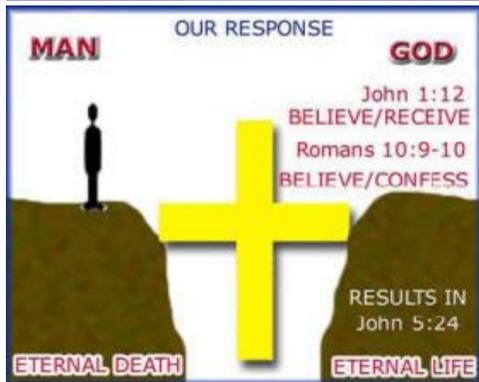
God's Purpose: God desires that we experience an abundant life. This would include such things as love, peace, purpose, and fulfillment. He also desires that we experience both abundant life now and eternal life with Him.



Our Problem: But we have a problem. God did not create us like a robot who would automatically love and have fellowship with Him in return. He gave us a will and the freedom of choice. Therefore, not only do we have the ability to make good choices, but we also have the ability to make evil choices and sin. The consequences of our sin bring about the judgment of God.



God's Remedy: In spite of the fact that we have turned our backs on God and have disobeyed Him, He has provided a remedy so that we can know Him personally. He wants to give us both abundant life and eternal life. Only one bridge can cross the gulf that exists between a person and God, and that bridge is Jesus Christ, through His death on the cross. God sacrificed His son to pay the price for all of our sins and bring us reconciliation to Him.



Our Response: Christ has made it possible for us to cross over to God's side and experience the full life that He wants us to have. But we are not automatically on God's side. In order to receive the gift of Christ's sacrifice for our salvation and cross over to God's side, we must believe Him and trust Him. For by Grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2: 8-9

<p>These verses to the right are basic to giving an understanding about the Gospel with someone. You would do well to memorize these verses for this reason.</p>	<p>John 10:10; John 3:16; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 1:12; Romans 10:9-10; Revelation 3:20; John 5:24</p>
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The Power of Prayer Evangelism

Prayerlessness is one of the greatest hindrances to evangelism in our families, workplaces and in our neighborhoods. One of the reasons why more people are not coming to faith in Christ is the lack of intercessory and intentional prayer for the lost. "The evangelization of the world...depends first of all upon a revival of prayer." Robert Speer. "If you want to go to heaven you have to make a reservation because it's a Gated Community" Skip Gray

Ask God to open their spiritual eyes: God because You said:

2 Corinthians 4 Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so they are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News that is shining upon them. They don't understand the message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

Ask God to set them free from spiritual captivity:

2 Timothy 2 ²⁵They should gently teach those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will believe the truth. ²⁶Then they will come to their senses and escape from the Devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.

Ask God to give them ears to hear

1) Matthew 13:15-15 For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear and they have closed their eyes--so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.'

2) Acts 20-faith to believe

²¹I have had one message for Jews and Gentiles alike--the necessity of turning from sin and turning to God, and of faith in our Lord Jesus.

3) Romans 10-will to respond

¹⁹But did the people of Israel really understand? Yes, they did, for even in the time of Moses, God had said, "I will rouse your jealousy by blessing other nations. I will make you angry by blessing the foolish Gentiles."

Ask God to send people into their lives to witness to them

Matthew 9:³⁸So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send out more workers for his fields."

Ask God for ways to build caring relationships:

1 Corinthians 9:22 When I am with those who are oppressed, I share their oppression so that I might bring them to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone so that I might bring them to Christ.

Ask God for opportunities to witness

Colossians 4:3 Don't forget to pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to preach about his secret plan--that Christ is also for you Gentiles. That is why I am here in chains.

Ask God for boldness to witness

Acts 4:29 And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give your servants great boldness in their preaching.

Ask God for an opportunity to invite them to an event **Luke 14:23** So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.'

LIST NAMES BELOW PRAY FOR THEM EACH DAY:

Monday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Tuesday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Wednesday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Thursday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Friday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Saturday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Sunday

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

NOTES:

Date: _____ Group: _____

Women's Discipleship Ministry "Salt & Light" Discipleship
Attendee Information
Please Print Clearly

Name: _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone #: (H) _____ (C) _____

Email: _____

What Church do you attend? _____ How long? _____

Married? _____ Children? _____ Ages of Children _____

How long have you been a Christian? _____ Still seeking? _____

Tell us about yourself:

How did you find out about Women's Discipleship on Thursday nights?

Out of the Darkness into His Marvelous Light
Answer the following Questions....

Before – what did your life look like before you gave your life to Christ?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

How – Specific event of how you actually came to Christ.... or perhaps you are still seeking...just identify where you are. (You have to start where you are to get where you want to go)

Now – what does your life look like now since you have given your life to the Lord?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

"But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" 1 Peter 2:9

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