

Spiritual Foundations Bible Study

Participant’s version: God’s Word. Study 1

Introduction

Spiritual foundations are a series of studies which encourage believers to develop healthy practices that create a solid base to build and maintain a robust Christian life. The topics we will be covering include the titles God’s Word, Prayer, Worship, Love and Fellowship, The Giving Heart, Service, and First Love.

God’s Word

It is undisputable that making the Bible a part of the Christian’s life is an extremely important spiritual discipline. But how do we do that? The following study explores eight important practices to help the believer fully embrace the Word of God.

The sceptic will ask the question, how can a 2,000-year-old book possibly be relevant to people today? One of the measures for relevance is frequency of use or popularity. When hosting the ALPHA course Nicky Gumbel presents evidence that the Bible is by far the biggest selling hard copy book in the world! The Bible is the also most downloaded book in the world. There are many different Bible apps but the YouVersion statistics alone give us insight into the extreme popularity of the Bible. By 2020 the YouVersion Bible app had been installed on 459 million devices- mostly phones in 1,500 languages. Somebody installs the app every one second. That is over 30 million new people install the app every year. Recently, YouVersion Bible app experienced people in over 89,000 cities around the world engage with more than 109 million Bible chapters in just one day!

Openers

Why do you think the Bible is so popular?

What is your favourite book of the Bible?

Share an occasion when, because of what the Bible teaches you changed a behaviour or direction in your life.

1: Examine 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:20. What is the origin and purpose of God's Word.

2: Consider Revelation 1:3. What is promised to those who make reading the Bible a priority?

3: Read Nehemiah 8:3 and Acts 2:42a. What do we learn from the believers of the Old and New Testament as they listened to God's Word or preaching?

4: Read Psalm 119:11. This Scripture has often been used to encourage people to memorise verses from the Bible. How do you think we can hide God's Word in our hearts?

4 b. Why do you think it is important to hide God’s Word in our heart according to the previous Bible verse?

5: Consider Acts 17:11. Contemplate on what it means today to study or examine the Scriptures?

6: What do you think it means to meditate on the Bible and what is one of the purposes for this according to Joshua 1:8?

6 b. What are we promised if we make meditating on God’s Word a priority?

7: Read Deuteronomy 6:6-7. List the places or situations where we are encouraged to talk about or discuss the Bible.

7 b. Why is it important to discuss the Bible with others?

8: Reflect upon what it means to delight in God’s Word and use the following Scriptures to help you in your answer. Psalm 119: 47-48, 20, and 14.

9: Paraphrase the following verse, James 1:22.

10: Reflect upon Psalm 119:34 & 60. What should be our attitude when endeavouring to live God's Word?

Conclusion

How strong or weak are you in each of the following spiritual disciplines regarding the Bible? Rate yourself from 1-10 on the provided list.

1: Read God's Word (Rev. 1:3)

2: Listen to God's Word (Neh. 8:3, Acts 2:42a)

3: Memorize God's Word (Ps. 119:11)

4: Study God's Word (Acts 17:11)

5: Meditate on God's Word (Josh. 1:8)

6: Discuss God's Word (Deut. 6:6-7)

7: Delight in God's Word (Ps. 119: 14, 20, 47-48)

8: Live God's Word (Jam. 1:22, Ps. 119:34, 60)

Share one of your strongest and one of your weakest areas.

Is there any action you could take to improve in an area that needs development?

Pray for each other that all might become stronger in each of the spiritual foundations related to God's Word.

As an encouragement for the next week...

Reflect upon the chapter Psalm 119. Read it several times. It lays at the heart of the Bible and is the longest chapter and all but one of its 176 verses mention God's Word. Use it as a tool to develop a fresh love for the Scriptures.

Close in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to cultivate a renewed passion in your heart and pray Psalm 119:18 over each other's lives.

Psalm 119:18

**¹⁸ Open my eyes that I may see
wonderful things in your law.**