

Raking is easy, but all you get is leaves; digging is hard, but you might find diamonds.

— John Piper referring to slowing down to study God's Word

Journey Group

Bible Study Guide

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

— Jesus in Matt. 4:4

Choose a Book of the Bible to Study Together (# of chapters/weeks)

OT: Genesis (1-3, 12, 15, 17), Ruth (4), Jonah (4), Daniel (1-6), Esther (2 ch/week), Nehemiah (1-6)

NT: John (1-6), Rom. (1-6), Acts (1-4), Gal. (6), Eph. (6), Phil. (4), Col. (4), 1 Thes. (5), 2 Thes. (3), 1 Tim. (6), 2 Tim. (4), Titus (3), Philemon (1), James (5), 1 Peter (4), 2 Peter (3), 1 John (5), Jude (1)

A Plan To Spend Time with God

1. Opening PRAYER: To prepare and focus your heart and mind (Use I-O-U-S)

Incline my heart to your testimonies and not to selfish gain (Ps. 119:36)

Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law (Ps. 119:18)

Unite my heart to fear your name (Ps. 86:11b)

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy & be glad all our days
(Ps. 90:14)

2. Read the Passage/Chapter:

Observation: What does it SAY?

Read and re-read it. Write down initial observations. Who wrote it to whom? Why did he write this? What's the genre? How fit in the story of the Bible? Main theme? Repeated words? How would you relate with original readers in their culture?

Interpretation: What does it MEAN?

What does the passage mean? What's the author's original intent? What do those words/phrases mean? What's the main idea? What does it say about God (Father, Jesus, Spirit)? What does it say about mankind (you)? Any commands? How see your sin/difficulty in doing what God asks? Where see God's grace or promises to enable/motivate us to do it? How see Christ's work and it's affect?

Application: How should I RESPOND?

How or where am I being called to respond? How should this change my life or others around me if I lived it out? What sin/idols need to be confessed? What truths or promises need to be trusted? What should I believe, do, be, or see?

3. Closing Prayer: Responding to God's Word in conversation with God

Adoration: Tell God how great He is (something from the passage if possible).

Confession: Tell God what you are sorry for (sin/idolatry/weakness/etc. from the passage if possible).

Thanksgiving: Tell God what you are thankful for

Supplication: Ask God for help with believing/living out His Word. Bring to your needs as well as the need of those around you, your family, friends, and the world.

Example of a Study

Chapter or Passage: 1 Timothy 1

Observation:

Paul wrote Timothy ^(v.1-2) to give some direction and encouragement
He wants Timothy to be grounded in the truth so he can lovingly correct and encourage others in it ^(v.5)
^{who are wandering (v.6)} much of the letter seems to be about how to lead and teach + serve in the church

• Paul offers himself as an example of God's grace and mercy (v.17)

• Words: Faith, God, conscience, Law, mercy

ⓐ How is the law good "if used lawfully"?

ⓑ How is the law "laid down" for the lawless and disobedient?

Right teaching/
doctrine is important
Hold on to true
faith + good conscience

Read it a 2-3 times.

✗ Who wrote it, to whom, why?
✗ Genre (narrative, poetry, etc)
✗ Context: How fit with rest of book or story of the Bible?

□ What stands out?
✗ Key or repeated words?
✗ Questions you have?
✗ What would you think/feel if living in their situation or reading it for the first time?

Interpretation:

Main theme/point = Holding on to correct doctrine/truth with sincere faith and a good conscience b/c the gospel of God's mercy is glorious as is God Himself
v.8-11 - The law is "for" the ungodly because it reveals the sinful nature of their sin and the folly of false doctrine

v.12-17 - Paul admits he IS the foremost of sinners → Yet he received mercy ⁽¹³⁾
↳ Christ came to save sinners ⁽¹³⁾ He is a friend of sinners
The healthy don't need a doctor only the sick
+ grace overflowed ⁽¹⁴⁾
His part? = "Believe" - Receive ⁽¹⁶⁾

v.17 GOD = King of ages = across all time
Immortal = Not like mortal man - who begins or ends
Invisible - Only God
WORSHIP MOMENT → BE HONOR + GLORY

v.3-7 and 18-20 Instruct others in this sound teaching of the gospel (Admission of our sinful nature)
+ live w/ a good conscience (no unrepentant sin or hidden) = Faith in Christ's work = Saved by God's mercy + grace

Application:

We are called ^{1st} to admit we are the "foremost of sinners"

• How would it change my marriage + parenting if I always saw the plank in my eye - the sinful nature of my thoughts/actions FIRST + FOREMOST?

• The width of the pipeline of seeing/experiencing God's mercy + grace is directly related to the width of the pipeline of seeing + admitting my sin.

↳ WORSHIP (Desire to love/enjoy God, to live thankful + obedient) is directly related to this.

• Live w/ faith in the gospel, w/ a good conscience (no hidden, unrepentant sin)
• I should want others to have "sound doctrine" + live in the good news of being a sinner saved by the OVERFLOWING grace of God in Christ, and not my good law keeping

Prayer:

God help me see myself as a chief of sinners. My sin is that bad still.
Help me to receive all of your abundant grace - it's that good +
Help me to care that others know and live in this overflowing over-
luous or → And WORSHIP you as you deserve!

□ What does the text mean?
✗ Main theme/point?
□ Words/phrases you don't understand?

□ What does teach us about:
1) God (Father/Son/Spirit)?
(Character, works, purposes)

2) You (as a human being)
(Nature, sin, idolatry, need)

3) God's commands?

4) God's grace/promises?
How does Christ's work or God's grace that enables & motivates us to obey?

✗ What convicted, encouraged or comforted me?

✗ What am I called to believe, be, confess, do or see?

✗ How would this passage change my life if I really believed it & lived it out?

□ How does God's grace in the text motivate me to obey?

□ How should this influence:

1) My relationship w/ God

2) My view of myself

3) My relationships w/ others (family, friends, co-workers, neighbors)

4) My work/calling

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