



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: The Practice of Scripture

Text: 2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Theme: To know God and the will of God, you must be a student of the Word of God.

Teaching Notes: Students must hear the words of their teachers in order to learn. In the same way, you must hear the words of Jesus in order to be his apprentice. Knowing God's Word and being shaped by God's Word is an absolutely essential practice of following Jesus. This message explores four ways to read the Bible in order to have the well-rounded approach of a true apprentice.

Outline:

1. Read for knowledge.

The Bible itself commends the pursuit of true knowledge. And the most reliable way to know God and to understand the way of Jesus is through the written Word.

2. Read for communion.

Jesus invites us to come to him, to be present with him, to share sweet and intimate communion with him through his Word.

3. Read for guidance.

The Word is how we can be led by God's view of right and wrong, and by his perspective on all things the Bible addresses. His Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

4. Read for transformation.

The Word is a powerful tool for life transformation. In addition to showing us what's true and right, it demonstrates our guilt and admonishes us when we're wrong, it restores us to wholeness, and it trains us to walk in the light.

Application: Learn to "HEAR" from God's Word:

- Highlight: share something that stands out to you.
- Explain: what the text means.
- Apply: what the text means to me right now.
- Respond: what I will do because of this text.



Questions to explore individually and with your group:

1. How would you describe your practice of personal Bible reading/study now? When? How often? How much? Methods? What else do you observe?
2. What's your go-to motivation for reading the Bible? (When you read it, why are you reading it – or what are you reading it for?)
3. Consider the four reasons for reading Scripture that were described in the message: reading for knowledge, communion, guidance, and transformation:
 - Draw a pie chart of how you read Scripture now.
 - What do you observe? (e.g. Are you missing something?)
 - What other categories of reading would you add to these four?
4. What are some things you'd like to know more about from the Bible? What are some approaches you could take to Scripture to help you learn those things?
5. What are some ways you could discipline your heart and mind to be present with God, as he reveals himself in his Word, and not simply blitz through your reading to get it done?
6. Many people take a haphazard approach to reading the Bible for guidance. (e.g. They skip around just looking for key words, ignoring the context of those verses. They go straight to "this is what it means to me" without ever considering what a text was intended to mean.) What are some practical, healthier ways to read the Bible for guidance in your life?
7. We said in the message that "we need to search the Scriptures, but we also need to let the Scriptures search us." What does that mean? What are some ways you can invite the Scriptures to search you?
8. The pattern of how Scripture transforms and renews us is in 2 Timothy 3:16-17: through teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness. Practically, how do you let the Bible reprove and correct you? Give examples of what that would look like in everyday life.
9. Remember the pattern of following Jesus? How does hearing and living God's Word help you with each of these?

association → education → imitation → replication

10. What's one practical, specific thing you'll do with the message this week?