

FIRM FOUNDATION

TRUSTING, STUDYING, & LIVING THE WORD

NL Equip | Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Pastor Lori Bunk

Matthew 22:37, 38

37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment.

Loving God with your MIND (διάνοια - diánoia - dee-an'-oy-ah)

- Your thought life
- Your beliefs, faculty of understanding
- Your reasoning and learning
- Your intellect

2 Timothy 3:14-17

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it **15** and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God be complete, equipped for every good work.

All Scripture is BREATHED OUT (θεόπνευστος theópneustos, theh-op'-nyoo-stos)

- “Inspired” - not our modern definition of being motivated
- “Exhale”- breathed out in your direction
- Scripture originates from the breath of God Himself
- θεός (theos) Meaning: God, πνέω (pneō) Meaning: to blow or breathe out

Profitable for:

- Teaching, Doctrine, Instruction
- Reproof, Conviction, Proving, Testing
- Correction, Discipline, Nurture
- Training in Righteousness, the Nature of God

Hebrews 4:12, 13

12 For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13** And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Approaching God's Word

Approach the Word with **PATIENCE**

- He is a SHOW + TELL God, not a HIDE + SEEK God
- He gave us a written record of His character, His ways, His laws & His mighty acts so that as His children we can know Him
- The discipline is important, because the relationship has value

Approach the Word with the right **PERSPECTIVE**

- **Netflix Method**

What am I in the mood for?

Convinced the Bible was written to make us feel better. We use it to serve us instead of teaching us to serve the One it describes

- **YouTube Method**

What do I need to do?

Desiring the Bible to be a step-by-step guide on what we need to do next. It causes us to focus on what we should do, instead of who we should become

- **Instagram Method**

What do others say about it?

Enjoy hearing the Word from other people's perspective. Persuading ourselves we can metabolize the Word, while someone else eats and digests it (hear-say)

- **Taco Bell Method**

What can I handle?

Only reading easy portions of the word that are relatable, moving & straightforward. Deciding what you want instead of trusting God with what you need (everything was put in the Word for a reason)

Approach the Word with the right **POSTURE**

Humility

- You are a disciple of God (learner, pupil, in-training)- John 8:31,32
- You are a child of God (investment by your heavenly Father)- John 1

Hunger

- Your time with the Lord is relational- John 14:23
- You are a son/daughter of the house- John 15:7
- You are an ambassador of God Himself- Matthew 28:19-20

Holy Spirit

- He resides inside you- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- He will teach you- John 14:25, 26
- He will reveal to you- 1 Corinthians 2:9-14

“The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.” Martin Luther

Studying God's Word

Approaching God's Word with a God-centered perspective, with context, and with care takes effort and commitment. It is study for the long-term. Some days your study may not move you emotionally or speak to an immediate need. You may not be able to apply a passage at all. But what if ten years from now, in a dark night of the soul, that passage suddenly opened up to you because of the work you have done today? Wouldn't your long-term investment be worth it? **Just start. God knows how to speak to you through His Word.** You don't need to feel nervous, ill-equipped, guilty or ashamed. **God's Word is about a God who longs for you to know Him.** Trust Him to do so today

OBSERVATION | Read the Word

Observation is taking a portion of Scripture and making some initial observations about it:

- What's going on?
- Who are the characters?
- Where is this taking place?
- When did this take place?
- What does that word mean?
- Is this situation described anywhere else in the Bible?
- What is the context? (What comes before and after the passage?)

Once you get a feel for some of these questions, try to keep an eye out for key words or phrases, repeated words, contrasts and comparisons.

INTERPRETATION | Understand the Word

Interpretation refers to understanding the meaning or big idea of the passage. Resources that can be beneficial to this step are Bible dictionaries and commentaries. Ask questions such as:

- Why did God include this in His word?
- Why did the author write this?
- What is the historical and cultural context of this passage?
- What is true about God and His character?
- What sinful, broken or fallen condition is being addressed or corrected by this passage?
- How are people putting their trust in something apart from God?
- What are the universal principles, beliefs and values that can be taken from this passage?

APPLICATION | Live the Word

In light of our interpretation and the transformative grace and truth we've discovered, how does the passage apply to us practically? To discover this, ask questions like:

- What does God want me, or us, to believe, value or do?
- How is this different from my current beliefs, values, desires & actions?
- Are there commands, warnings or encouragements in this passage?
- Is there anything discussed in this passage that I should avoid?
- In light of this passage, how does God want me to trust and follow Him?
- How do my negative thoughts, feelings and actions point to the lies I'm believing about myself, God and others?

Bible LAB

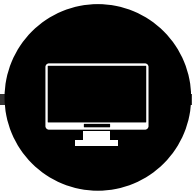
John 4 (ESV)

⁴ Now he (Jesus) had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

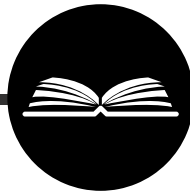
⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

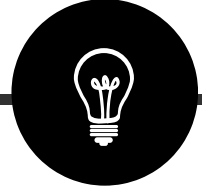
Resources



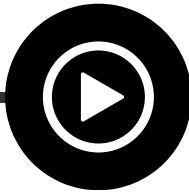
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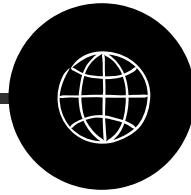
The Bible Project
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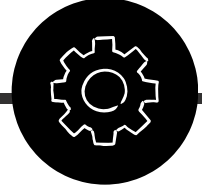
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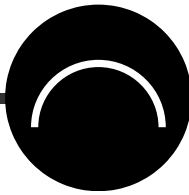
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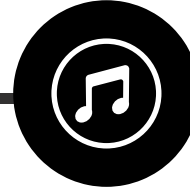
Bible Translating
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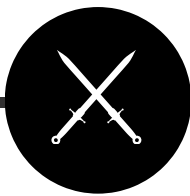
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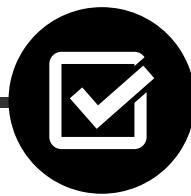
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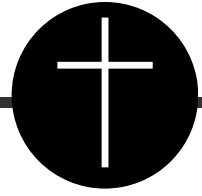
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