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Study God's Word

WHEN HAVE YOU REALLY ENJOYED LEARNING SOMETHING?

The POINT >

Regularly studying God's Word keeps us firmly grounded.

> 2 TIMOTHY 2:14-19,22-26

¹⁴Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearer. ¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. ¹⁶But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, ¹⁷and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. ¹⁹But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

.....

²²So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.





THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

The Baltimore Orioles' stadium is built on land that was once home to Babe Ruth's father's pub.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // BIBLE

Through the Bible, we know God Himself, and we know how He expects us to live in order to follow Christ and experience His blessing.

I'm a huge Major League Baseball fan. Even as a child, I sat in front of the TV watching countless games and highlight reels. Today, you can ask me about any of the rules, and I can explain them to you. Show me a picture of a ballpark, and I'll tell you the city where it sits. I am a self-proclaimed (and very amateur) expert on all things Major League Baseball.

I can go a step further. In my lifetime, I have attended a game in person at every Major League ballpark. And as a result, the general information I learned as a kid has become much richer and more personal. Watching games on TV now is a deeper experience because I've been there.

In a similar way, simply knowing information about the Bible certainly allows us to understand certain truths about God and His Word. However, when we choose to study it deeply, applying the things we learn, the experience becomes much more personal. The words, the events, and Jesus's teaching come alive when we invest the time to do more than just read the text. Studying the Bible isn't just an exercise to fill our brains with facts, but to know the truth and how it applies to our lives. Ultimately, it's to know God Himself.

2 TIMOTHY 2:14-15

1 What might get in the way of regularly studying God's Word?

2 What are some tools you could use to better understand and live out God's Word?



*When we faithfully study God's Word, it keeps us grounded in the truth no matter who might try to tempt us.
#BSFLBuildYourLife*

2 TIMOTHY 2:16-19

3 What are examples of irreverent and empty speech we should avoid?

4 What things does our culture get wrong about God's Word?

5 How can we make sure we're not deceived by false teaching?

2 TIMOTHY 2:22-26

6 When have you been excited to share about something you've experienced?

7 How might studying God's Word lead to a changed life? How have you experienced this?

8 Why is it so important not only to know the Bible but to apply its truths?



LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // BIBLE

Through the Bible, we know God Himself, and we know how He expects us to live in order to follow Christ and experience His blessing.

In our culture, people have all kinds of opinions that are opposed to God and His purposes—people say things that are irreverent or empty, foolish or ignorant. We must avoid these kinds of communication. In order to recognize unhealthy communication, we must first know God’s Word deeply and measure what others would say against it. To follow the foolish values of the world leads to destruction. But to follow Jesus leads to everlasting blessing.

>CHRIST

An essential part of living in relationship with God is studying His Word.

9 This week, consider buying a study resource that will help you to understand Scripture more deeply. If you don’t have a good study Bible, consider asking your student pastor for a recommendation or if they have one you can borrow. If you have a study Bible, consider purchasing a commentary to help you grow in your understanding. Ask your student pastor to recommend a book of the Bible to study and a helpful commentary.

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

> COMMUNITY

10 It's important to regularly participate in your church's gatherings and Bible studies. As you grow in your understanding, consider studying a book of the Bible more in depth. Then, ask a few friends to join you every week and study the book together.



> CULTURE

Many people in our culture are somewhat familiar with the Bible and the things it teaches. However, many people buy into the world's distortions of biblical principles, and they don't understand what the Bible really says about specific issues.

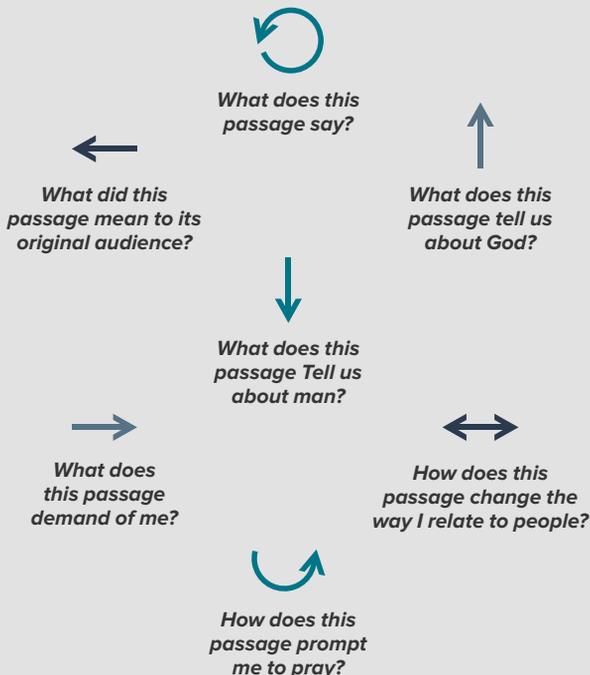
11 What are one or two biblical concepts the world misunderstands? Who do you know that believes these mistruths?

12 This week, help your friend to understand what the Bible really teaches. A good starting place might be to help them understand what is required for salvation.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One PSALM 119:41-42

The psalmist was apparently facing difficulties, specifically with an enemy continually mocking and ridiculing him. When people treat us this way, it can be easy to be overwhelmed and discouraged. Yet when faced with this, the psalmist turned to God—others were treating him cruelly, and he asked God to reveal His love in a special way. In our culture, people seek love in all kinds of unhealthy places. They seek likes on social media, attention through showing out at school, or inappropriate affections in dating relationships. But these kinds of worldly love lead to emptiness. The kind of love that truly satisfies is the kind that only God can give. God expressed His love to the psalmist through His Word, and this gave comfort and strength to live through persecution.

➤ **When have you felt like the psalmist facing the taunts of others?**

➤ **Where specifically do you see people seeking love?**

Day Four

PSALM 119:45-46

In Scripture, we find a number of contrasting ideas: life and death, light and darkness, relationship and separation, and many more. One of those is freedom versus bondage. Ultimately, it is sin which enslaves those who aren't followers of Jesus. However, it is also possible even for Christians to give ourselves over to unhealthy forms of bondage. For instance, people often become tangled up in unhealthy patterns of speaking, trying to impress others, lustful desires, and many more. The psalmist had been held captive, in a sense, by the ways he was mistreated. However, when he focused on God's love and salvation and devoted Himself to living in obedience to God, the burden he'd felt was lifted, and he was set free. We've probably all experienced hangups and felt like we just couldn't move past them. The good news is that when we study God's Word—notice, the psalmist used the word “study”—and commit to living out the principles we learn, we can walk in the freedom that only Jesus gives.

➤ **When have you felt trapped in an unhealthy pattern?**

➤ **What does it take to be free?**

Day Five

PSALM 119:47-48



When we love something, we pursue it whenever given the opportunity. For instance, if you love ice cream or pizza, then you'll eat it whenever you have the chance. The psalmist had grown to love God's Word quite a lot, perhaps even more than his favorite foods. Why? Because he'd seen, over and over again, the ways that living for God brought blessings into his life. When we disobey God, there are certainly negative consequences. However, when we devote ourselves to honoring God and obeying His Word, we'll find, just like the psalmist, that there are great benefits. This is why He loved God's commands so much. Try it. Chances are you'll grow to love them too.

➤ **When have you tried something and were “hooked” right away?**

➤ **Why did the psalmist love God's Word so much? How do you feel the same?**