

Practical Questions to Consider

- Do I truly value the Word of God and does my life reflect it?
- Do I take time to meditate on and apply God's word?
- Regarding the previous questions, is there a way that others in the church can help you (e.g., resources, accountability, training, etc.)?

Recommended Reading

- Bible Reading: Psalm 119, 2 Timothy 3, John 15
- Davis, Andrew. 2014. *An Approach to Extended Memorization of Scripture*. Greenville, SC: Ambassador International.
- McGee, J. Vernon. *Briefing the Bible*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1980.
- Evans, Tony. *The Wonder of the Word: Hearing the Voice of God in Scripture*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2019.

Five Spiritual Disciplines Schedule

8/1 – Introduction & Overview
8/7 - Bible Reading/Study
8/14 - Giving
8/21 - Church Attendance
8/28 – Prayer & Fasting
9/4 - Annual Missions Conference
9/11 - Witnessing

 CORE SEMINARS

The Five Spiritual Disciplines

Seminar 1: Bible Reading
August 7th, 2024

The Spiritual Disciplines are those personal and corporate disciplines that promote spiritual growth. They are the habits of devotion and experiential Christianity practiced by the people of God since biblical times. They are the God-given means we are to use in the Spirit-filled pursuit of Godliness.

1 Timothy 4:7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

The first spiritual discipline we'll explore is Bible reading. Reading Scripture is vital for cultivating a healthy, growing, and fruitful life as a Christian.

1. 1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:
2. Matthew 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17- ¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

We need God's word and from 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we are going to learn:

1. What God says About the Bible.
2. How we are to Approach the Bible.
3. How we should Apply the Bible.

”The Bible is the written word of God and serves as the supreme constitution for his people” - John Frame

The Bible:

- Contains 66 books
- Was written over a 1,500 year span
- Has more than 40 authors from all walks of life
- Was composed in all sorts of locations, from deserts to prisons to palaces
- Is written in three different languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic)
- Spans multiple continents (Africa, Europe, Asia)
- Is wonderfully and divinely : inspired, infallible, and inerrant.

About the Bible- “All scripture is given by inspiration of God”

- All Scripture: From Cover to Cover
 - Every single word, genre, chapter, and book of the Bible is good and from God.
 - Jesus teaches us that we need every word.(Matthew 4:4)
 - This is called “Verbal Plenary” inspiration. It is the doctrine that every single word in the Bible is from God. (Matthew 5:17- 18)
- Given by inspiration
 - Inspiration literally means “breathed out”. The Bible is God breathed. Every word is from God. (2 Peter 1:21)
- Of God
 - The Bible is God’s primary way of revealing himself and his truth to humanity. (Hebrews 1:1, Duet 7:9)
 - The Bible’s authority comes from its divine source; it governs all areas of human life.
 - The Bible’s status of truth can be claimed because it is from the God of truth. (John 17:17)

Approaching the Bible- “And is Profitable”.

- Profitable: Useful and Beneficial
 - The Bible is good for us and God desires us to read and know it. (Psalm 119:130)

- The Christian can read, understand, and know the Bible. (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- Our attitude when approaching the Bible matters
 - Approach the Bible expecting growth; it provides nourishment like milk for the young (1 Peter 2:2) and solid food for the mature (Hebrews 5:14).
 - Seek the Bible for understanding and guidance; it acts as a counselor (Psalm 119:24) and lights your path (Psalm 119:105, 130).
 - Turn to the Bible for correction and purification (2 Tim 3:16, John 17:17)
 - Enjoy the Bible for its sweetness; God’s Word is like honey (Psalm 19:9)

Applying the Bible- “doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”

- God’s word should have an impact on our lives.
 - Doctrine is knowing what’s right. Reproof is knowing what’s not right. Correction is how to get right. Instruction in righteousness is how to stay right.
 - Your service to God and Bible intake are directly correlated(2 Tim 3:17)
- Practical Advice
 - Applying what we read to life can sometime be hard try to keep the following questions in mind:
 - Is there a promise to claim?
 - Is there a lesson to learn?
 - Is there a blessing to enjoy?
 - Is there a command to obey?
 - Is there a sin to avoid?
 - Is there a new thought to carry with me?
 - Keep the Bibles literary styles in mind:
 - Narrative,Poetry ,History ,Prophecy ,Letters/Epistles
 - Knowing the historical context helps:
 - Ask: Who is the human author? What are the readers enduring? Where in the world does this occur? When does it occur?
 - Meditate on what you read: Understanding and Meditation: Memorization deepens our understanding of Scripture, allowing for ongoing reflection and meditation.

