

SCRIPTURE RESOURCES



THE PRACTICE OF READING SCRIPTURE MARCH 2, 2025

SUMMARY

Jesus' View of Scripture

Matthew 15:17-20

Matthew 19:4-6 & Genesis 2:22-24

Matthew 4:1-11

Mark 12:18-27

John 5:39-46

The Profit of Reading Scripture

II Timothy 3:14-17

BIBLE READING PLANS

Life Journal Reading Plan was developed by Wayne Cordeiro and takes you through the Old Testament once and the New Testament twice each calendar year. Cornerstone has published this plan for many years.

Five Day Bible Reading takes you through the whole Bible each year, while reading 5 days per week.

BibleProject Reading Plan takes you through the whole Bible in a year, with links to BibleProject videos corresponding to each reading. You can subscribe to this plan in the YouVersion app and the videos are linked as part of the plan.



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THE RELIABILITY OF SCRIPTURE MARCH 9, 2025

SUMMARY

The Bible Claims to Be God's Word

Scripture is Meant to be a Power in our Lives

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Are you receiving Scripture as God's Word? What are some indications in your life that you are?

Do you have questions or doubts about the inspiration of the Scriptures? What arguments are compelling to you, and which are not satisfying?

Have you ever experienced Scripture as a power in your life? Describe a time where your thinking, affections, motivations, or behaviour changed because of the power of God through the Scriptures.

Spend time reading a passage of Scripture, and seek to hear what God is saying to your group through it.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Seven Things I Wish Christians Knew About the Bible by Michael F. Bird. This book engages with topics like how the Scriptures have been given to us historically, the inspiration and authority of Scripture, and how to read Scripture in a Christ-centred manner.



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A STORY LEADING TO JESUS MARCH 16, 2025

SUMMARY

Scripture is a diverse collection of books, that tell a single unified story, that points to and centres on Jesus.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Which genres in Scripture do you feel you engage with most naturally?
Eg. Poetry, Prophecy, Law, Narrative, Apocalyptic, Wisdom

How do you personally see Jesus throughout Scripture even when He is not specifically mentioned?

Do you see your own life as part of the Great Narrative told throughout Scripture? How can you connect the great story to your own experience of following Jesus?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

CSB Study Bible is a rich resource for helping you comprehend the context and genre of different books within our Bible. It includes maps, commentaries, word studies, and more to help you understand God's Word. You can find a copy online or at your local Christian Book store.

Bible Project: How to Read Scripture is a 4-part video series aimed at helping you see the unified story of Scripture.

The Jesus Storybook Bible is a children's book that conveys the message of Jesus being "whispered on every page" in Scripture, communicating throughout various Bible stories how they point to the person and redeeming work of Jesus.



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THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE MARCH 23, 2025

SUMMARY

We confess that Scripture is an authoritative guide for our faith and practice?
We considered this confessional statement by analyzing Natural and Special Revelation as well as Structural and Spiritual Authority. We also considered this claim in light of the reality that Scripture is a unified story leading to Jesus. How we see ourselves as part of the story sheds light on how we can live in alignment with this Spirit-inspired book.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

What do you instinctively feel in response to the confessional statement of the authority of Scripture?

Is the illustration of the unfinished play helpful for you in coming to grips with the authority of Scripture? In what ways?

Do you tend to view God as primarily having structural authority, where we obey because we have to, or as having spiritual authority, where we obey because he loves us?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Scripture and the Authority of God by N.T. Wright is an article which gives helpful illustrations of how the Biblical story can function as an authoritative guide for our faith and practice. Available online here: <https://biologos.org/articles/n-t-wright-on-scripture-and-the-authority-of-god>

Seven Things I Wish Christians Knew About the Bible by Michael F. Bird. This book engages with topics like how the Scriptures have been given to us historically, the inspiration and authority of Scripture, and how to read Scripture in a Christ-centred manner.

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THE PRACTICE OF STUDYING SCRIPTURE MARCH 30, 2025

SUMMARY

In today's message we explored the practice of studying Scripture, emphasizing that studying is not just for obtaining information, but for deepening our relationship with Jesus. Every believer is called to study - not in order to become a disciple - but because that's what disciples do. Studying Scripture helps us understand the context, the original audience, and ultimately leads to deeper understanding and transformative experience. It's about connecting with God, growing in our knowledge of Him, and becoming more like Him. While personal study is crucial, we must also study in community to avoid misinterpretation and to engage in communal discernment. Study is not just intellectual - it leads to life transformation, enabling us to live out God's love and truth. Through study, we are equipped to resist false teachings and live in alignment with Scripture. Finally, we explored a practical method of studying scripture.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

How does the idea that “the Bible wasn't written to us, but it was written for us” change the way you approach Scripture?

What does it mean to you personally to be a “student of Jesus”? How does this challenge or encourage you?

How can studying Scripture in community help protect us from personal misinterpretations? Have you ever experienced a time when community study deepened your understanding?

What is one specific area you would like to study more deeply to grow in your relationship with God?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Celebration of Discipline - Chapter 5: The Discipline of Study by Richard Foster explores how the discipline of study is key to transformation, encouraging us to study the Bible not just for knowledge, but to deepen our relationship with God and become more like Christ.

How to Study Your Bible by Kay Arthur provides practical guidance for studying the Bible inductively, with a focus on observing, interpreting, and applying God's Word. It equips believers to approach Scripture with a deeper understanding and personal application.

How to Read Your Bible for All Its Worth by Fee & Stuart offers a clear guide to understanding the different genres of the Bible and how to interpret them correctly. It helps readers navigate the complexities of Scripture and teaches the principles for interpreting God's Word in a way that leads to faithful application.

TESTIMONY - STEPHEN PLETT

“In a way, Scripture is like the sunrise to me, with its new hope and revealing light. I find the two also pair well. And while not everyday do I immerse myself in them, when I do I feel nourished, for 'man does not live on bread alone'. As I approach the Bible, almost like a meal, with an eagerness to hear from God, I know that Truth will begin to feed my understanding and strengthen my heart. Sure, I'll miss the point sometimes, just like the characters I read about. Yet God's response has grace worked into the guidance, and I get a glimpse of His nature - His timeless outreach to humanity, to me, for 'In the beginning was the Word'.”

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THE PRACTICE OF MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE APRIL 6, 2025

SUMMARY

It is easy to focus on the “what” and the “how” of Bible reading, but miss the all-important “why”. The through-line of the whole Bible is that God desires to dwell among His people. Jesus, in the Upper Room, told his disciples that they would not need to wait for his return to experience His presence. The Holy Spirit would dwell in them and among them, and would enable them to abide in Jesus, just like a branch abides in the vine.

Meditating on Scripture has been called “the prayerful consideration of Scripture.” This is the means by which we ponder, take in, digest, and assimilate the truth of the text into our very souls. While there is no single correct way to meditate on Scripture, many have found the practice of *Lectio Divina* to be helpful. A 4 prayer model was shared:

- Sanctify me by your truth. Your word is truth. (John 17:17)
- The revelation of your word brings light. (Psalm 119:130)
- Teach me your way O Lord, and I will live by your truth (Psalm 86:11)
- The Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask for him. (Luke 11:13)

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Is the idea of meditating on Scripture a new one for you, or do you have experience in this practice?

How do the habits of consuming information in the modern world influence how you approach Scripture?

Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit applying a text to your current situation, so that God is speaking to you personally through the Scriptures? Share an experience of God calling you to steps of obedience through the contemplation of Scripture.