

ESSENTIALS - Session 4 "The Essential Ministry of The Word"

DIRECTIONS

- Pathway illumination and guideposts (Psalm 119:105)
- Points us to a Person-JESUS. (John 6:68)

DESCRIPTION

- Like fire - burns up the extraneous.
- Like a hammer - shatters the hardened parts of our hearts (Jeremiah 23:29)

DEFINITIONS

- Bible-Latin for *biblia/ biblion*- “books”.
- Bible’s Authority- does it have the “final say” in our lives?
- Bible’s Claim-One unified story.
- Our proper response-*Abide*-We “*organize our lives*” around the message.

"If you are ignorant of God's Word, you will always be ignorant of God's will." - Billy Graham

GENERAL REVELATION vs. SPECIAL REVELATION

Man’s positive response to general revelation should lead to special revelation.

See **Rom. 1:18-21, Rom. 2:15, 2 Cor. 4:2 plus John 14:21, Heb 1:1-2**

WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

- Essential to Growth – 1 Peter 2:2
- Essential to Spiritual Maturity – Hebrews 5:11-14
- Essential to Spiritual Effectiveness – 2 Timothy 3:14-17

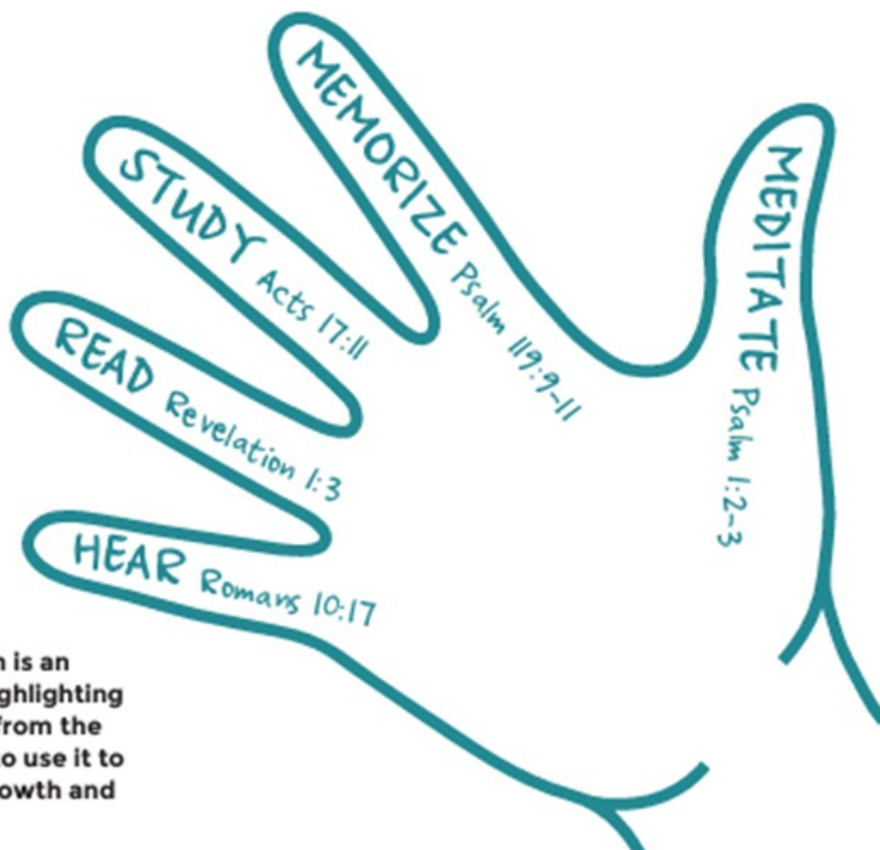
Equipping us includes: *know, stop, change, and do!*

"We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior." - John Stott

HOW TO INCORPORATE THE BIBLE INTO OUR LIVES



Navigators Discipleship Tool



The Word Hand illustration is an easy-to-remember tool highlighting five methods of learning from the Bible. We encourage you to use it to spur your own spiritual growth and to inspire others.

"The Bible was written not to satisfy your curiosity but to help you conform to Christ's image." - Professor Howard G. Hendricks (1924-2013)

PRINCIPLES OF PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

1. Observation – What do you see? Isaiah 42:20
2. Interpretation – What does it mean? Nehemiah 8:8
3. Application – How does it work? Ezra 7:10

ESSENTIAL TAKEAWAYS

- Bible was not given to make us smarter sinners but draw us to a great Savior!
- Importance of having a plan and a partner. Few can navigate solo. We need to encourage each other in this area. Have you ever read through the entire Bible? (Heb. 3:13)
- Bible reading plan <https://www.ligonier.org/posts/bible-reading-plans>.
- Get started in the morning! *Suggestion: Start with Gospel of Mark.*

RECOMMENDED READING

- ESV Study Bible
- Systematic Theology
- One to One – David Helm (COMA Bible Study Method)
- Read: No Other Book Like It (First Steps of Faith - Chapter 2)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Designating from Kindergarten to College, how would you evaluate your experience as a student/learner of God's Word? Why?
2. Tonight, it was mentioned that the Bible is God's primary means for communicating to us. What are some other ways that He uses?
3. If someone asked you to walk them through some Bible passages that would help them to understand how to become a Christ follower, would you be able to help them?
4. Do you currently have a consistent daily intake of God's truth? What keeps people from this habit?
5. Pointing us to Christ is one of the Bible's main strengths. How have you seen your relationship with Jesus improve as you engage the scriptures?
6. Why is it important to engage the Bible on our own?
7. Have you ever viewed the scriptures as God's personal "love letter" to you?
8. It was mentioned tonight that the Bible is one unified story spotlighting God's plan to accomplish, "they shall be My people, and I shall be their God!". Before tonight did you view the Bible through such lens?

HOMEWORK!!! ...Because the deepest part of your discipleship is personal!!

- Read: The Biggest Decision of Your (New) Life
- Read: The Supernatural Creation of Spiritual Life
- Read: You are Still You, but New