

Decentralized Growth Primer

Bottom Line:

There's no book like the Bible. Learn to read it for yourself. Questions:

Final Thought:

When all your favorite preachers are gone, and their books are forgotten, you will have your Bible. Master it. - John Piper

Motivation for Studying the Bible:

1. Read the Bible because there is a God.
 - a. *"In the beginning, God..." (Gen 1:1)*
2. Read the Bible because God speaks
 - a. It is how he created, revealed, communicates, how he will unmake
3. Read the Bible because God speaks to people like you.
 - a. *But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him. (1 John 2:27)*
4. Read the Bible because *"faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17)*
5. Read the Bible because the god of this world is a liar, and he is constantly trying to make you more like him instead of more like Christ.
 - a. *[The devil] does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44)*
6. Read the Bible because God's warnings and promises are the way that we conquer the deceitful promises of sin.
 - a. *How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word... I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:9,11)*
7. Read the Bible because the Word of God is your ONLY weapon against the devil.
 - a. c.f. Jesus in the wilderness.
8. Read the Bible because in it are the words of life.
 - a. *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life... (John 6:68)*
9. Read the Bible because God speaks to you through his Book - NOWHERE else.
 - i. *All Scripture is breathed out by God... (2 Timothy 3:16a)*

How to Study the Bible:

1. Read the Bible for the author's meaning, not your own

When we read, we want to know what an author intended us to see and experience in his writing. He had an intention when he wrote. Nothing will ever change that. It is there as a past, objective event in history. The meaning of a sentence, or a word, or a letter is what the author intended for us to understand by it. Therefore, meaning is the first aim of all good reading.

2. Ask questions to unlock the riches of the Bible

When we read, we do not generally really think until we are faced with a problem to be solved, a mystery to be unraveled, or a puzzle to be deciphered. Asking ourselves questions is a way of creating a problem or a mystery to be solved. It stimulates our mind while we read, and drives us down deep to the real meaning of a passage.

3. At every page, pray and ask for God's help

O Lord, incline our hearts to your word. Give us a desire for it. Open our eyes to see wonders there. Subdue our wills and give us an obedient spirit. Satisfy our hearts with a vision of yourself and your way for our lives.

Questions:

1. When it comes to reading the Bible (or gleaning from it), what is your struggle? Why do you think this is?
2. Of the nine motivations Pastor Bill mentioned (refer to sermon notes online at revolvechurchnj.com/sermons), which was the most motivating to you? Why?
3. Why is it important to read the Bible for the author's meaning, not your own?
4. What type of questions should you ask in order to unlock the riches of the Bible? Why is this important?
5. What is the role of prayer in studying the Bible?

Practice the Discovery Bible Study Method w/ Psalm 1 or 19

1. Pray for God to open your eyes to the riches of his Word.
2. Read and paraphrase the text in your own words.
3. Ask: What does this teach about God?
4. Ask: What does this teach about mankind?
5. Ask: What should I do? (This should be an "I will" statement.)
6. Ask: Who should I tell?
7. Pray in response to what you read and what you committed to do.