

We believe discipleship is a direction
not a destination.



Living by The Book
Learn to Read & Study the Bible

Why Are You Here?

- Do you question the Bible's relevance to real-life issues?
- Are you locked out of the bible study process by a lack of technique and basic skills?
- Are you convinced that this Book is just for professionals, not normal people, that it takes special training to understand it?



Why Are You Here?

- Is Bible study a low priority (or no priority), especially with so many other demands begging for your time?
- Do you have doubts about the Bible's reliability, and whether you can ever really determine its meaning?
- Do you perceive Bible study as dreadfully boring and not worth your attention?
- If so, you are in the right place



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **INTRODUCTION**

- **Week 1** Introduction and Overview (CH 1-4)

- **OBSERVATION**

- **Week 2** Observation (CH 5-7)
- **Week 3** Ten Strategies To Reading 1-5 (CH 8-12)
- **Week 4** Ten Strategies To Reading 6-10 (CH 13-18)



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **OBSERVATION**

- **Week 5** Six Things To Look For (CH 19-23)
- **Week 6** What Do I Do With This (CH 24-26)

- **INTERPRETATION**

- **Week 7** Interpretation Intro(CH 27-29)
- **Week 8** Five Keys to Interpretation (CH 30-34)
- **Week 9** Don't Stop (CH 35-38)



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

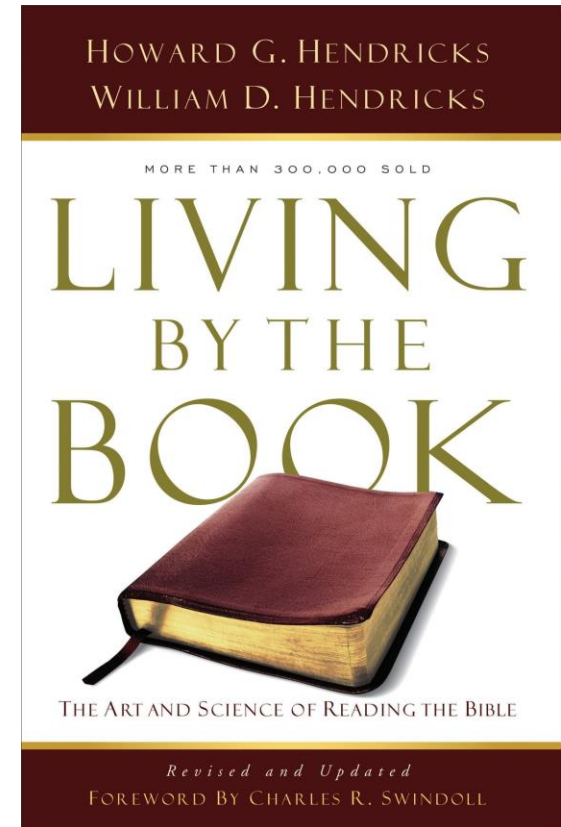
- **APPLICATION**

- **Week 10** Critical, Truth, Transformation (CH 39-41)
- **Week 11** Steps, Customize, Questions (CH 42-44)
- **Week 12** Principles, Changed Life, Get Started (CH 45-48)



Introduction

- Living By The Book by Howard and William Hendricks
- Howard Hendricks
 - Professor at Dallas Theological Seminary
 - Taught "Bible Exposition and Hermeneutics" for over 50 years
 - Served as chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys from 1976 to 1984



Why People Don't Study the Bible

Chapter 1



Is It Important To Read The Bible?

““This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book.” That was true then, and it’s still true today. Dusty Bibles always led to dirty lives. In fact, you are either in the Word and the Word is conforming you to the image of Jesus Christ, or you are in the world and the world is squeezing you into its mold.”



How Much Do We Read The Bible

- 47% of Americans claimed to read the Bible (2006 study)
 - That means at some point once a week
 - This is up from 31% in 1995
 - Barna Group Poll
- 82% of Americans claimed the Bible to be the literal or “inspired” Word of God
 - But 50% of these people can not name one of the four gospels



Why People Don't Study The Bible

- *Relevance*: It does not have anything to say in this modern world
- *Technique*: I don't know how to read it. It's all so confusing
- *Professionals*: It's meant for professionals like pastors and educated people



Why People Don't Study The Bible

- *Time*: I don't have time, I'm too busy
- *Reliability*: There are some unbelievable things in it. How can an intelligent, educated person believe it?
- *Boring*: It is dry, uninteresting, and hard, I fall asleep when I read it



Why People Don't Study The Bible

- *Relevance:* We will see in this study that the Bible is as relevant today as it was when it was written
- *Technique:* This study will give you the skills to read not only your Bible but almost any piece of literature
- *Professionals:* If you can read you can study the Bible
 - And don't be put off by the word study
 - This is not English 101, no written tests will be given



Why People Don't Study The Bible

- *Time*: This a valid reason, you have a lot of priorities in your life
 - You must determine what and where reading Gods Word lies in your priorities
- *Reliability*: By the end of this class, you will see the consistency of the Bible
- *Boring*: Things are boring when you don't understand
 - By the end you will be excited to read the Bible



Quick Test

How often do you read the Bible?

Never	Once a Month	Once a Week	2-3 Times a Week	Every Day
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When you read it, how much time do you spend reading?

< 5 min	15 min	30 min	45 min	> 1 hour
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Why Study the Bible

Chapter 2



Why Should I Read the Bible?

- We now know why we don't study the Bible
- Why should I study the Bible?
 - What are the benefits?
 - What difference will it make in my life?
 - What do I get out of it?



Why Should I Read the Bible?

- There are three main reason
 - Bible study is essential to **Spiritual Growth**
 - Bible study is essential to **Spiritual Maturity**
 - Bible study is essential to **Spiritual Effectiveness**



Spiritual Growth

- 1 Peter 2:2
 - Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.
- Three truths are found here
 - Attitude
 - Appetite
 - Aim



Attitude

- We are to have the attitude of a new born baby
 - Babies cry for milk
 - Babies need milk to physically live
- We need the scriptures to live spiritually
 - We need to cry for Gods Word when we are without it



Appetite

- We need to crave the word as a baby craves milk
 - We need to *long* for the Word
- But not everyone likes the taste some think it is like
 - Nasty Medicine: It is good for me but yech
 - Shredded Wheat: It is nourishing but dry and tasteless
 - Strawberries and Cream: You can't stop eating it
- Which one are you?



Aim

- What is the aim of the Bible?
 - “That by it you may grow”
 - Not only know but grow
- The Bible was written to help you see how you can grow into Christ's image
 - Not just know the rules of right and wrong



Are You Growing Old or Up

- Are you growing old right now?
 - Have you stopped growing up and are just getting old?
- Or are you still growing up?
 - The Bible is here to help you grow
 - And this should not stop till you are dead



Spiritual Maturity

- Hebrews 5:11-14
 - Concerning [Christ] we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.



Spiritual Maturity

- This is an instructive passage
- The writer says
 - “We have a lot to say” but
 - “It’s hard to explain”
- Why?
 - Is it because the material is hard?
 - No



Spiritual Maturity

- It is because the people are slow
 - “By this time” you should be the teacher
- You are still taking the same class over and over
 - You should be eating steak not milk



Spiritual Maturity

- What makes you Spiritually Mature?
 - When you have a doctorate in theology?
 - When you know the most Bible verses?
 - No
- The mark of spiritual maturity is not how much you understand, but how much you use.
- In the spiritual realm, the opposite of ignorance is not knowledge but obedience.



Spiritual Effectiveness

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.



Spiritual Effectiveness

- Paul says scripture is “profitable” for four specific things
 - **Doctrine/Teaching**
 - It structures your thinking
 - What you believe determines how you behave
 - **Rebuke**
 - It tells you what sin is
 - How God wants you to live



Spiritual Effectiveness

- **Correction**
 - It shows you where you are messing up
- **Training in Righteous Living**
 - It shows you the correct way to live



How This Book Can Help

Chapter 3



This Class Can Help

- Now that you know you need to study the Bible
 - HOW!
- The following 11 weeks will show you a proven method or strategy for effective Bible study



What You Can Expect To Happen

- You will find a simple proven process to read the Bible
- You will gain self confidence in reading the Bible
- You will discover personal joy in the Bible
- You will deepen your relationship with God



The Cost Of The Class

- You must be open to studying
 - It is not for the lazy
- You must be open to God
- You must be open to change
 - Are you willing to let God change your habits?
Priorities?



To Get Started

- Set some goals
 - Changing bad habits
 - Changing bad attitudes
- Manage your expectations
 - Be realistic, things take time to learn, you won't be Spurgeon next week
 - You also won't be an utter failure either
 - You can do this



Selecting a Bible

- Get a study Bible
- Don't go small, large print allows for more notes
- Wide margins
- No notes, we will cover where to get commentaries
- No subheadings, they create bias in reading



Selecting a Bible

- One with cross references
- Quality paper
- Concordance in the back
- Maps



An Overview Of The Process

Chapter 4



Methodicalness

- There is a method to follow
 - This means a precise set of steps, in order
- The Method is (In order):
 1. Observation: What do I see? Be a detective
 2. Interpretation: What does it mean?
 3. Application: How does it work? Not, Does it work?



Observation (What Do I See)

- Terms
 - These are key words, typically, words used over and over in a book or passage
- Structure
 - Grammatical structure (Subject, Verb, Object)
 - Literary structure (Question/Answer, Climax/Resolution, Cause/Effect)

Observation (What Do I See)

- Literary Form
 - Genre (Poetry, Narrative, Parables)
- Atmosphere
 - Place yourself in the setting described
 - Use your imagination to join what is going on



Interpretation (What Does It Mean)

- Questions
 - Ask the Bible questions, it doesn't mind
- Answers
 - Look for answers to your questions
- Integration
 - Put all the answers together



Application (How Does It Work)

- How does it work for me
 - Look to how the scriptures speak to your life first
 - If it doesn't work in your life, what credibility do you have to speak it into other lives
- How does it work for others
 - Last is how the scriptures speak into others lives
 - Their marriage, work, school life, etc...



Observation: What do I see?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Application: How does it work?

