

## Lesson 2 – How To Learn The Bible

**2 Peter 3:18** – *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.*

**Thesis:** This lesson is designed to teach the believer the proper steps to take in order to learn the Bible effectively.

**Memory Verse: Psalm 119:18** — Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

### 1. The Right View Concerning The Scriptures

A. The “right” view of Scripture means you have a \_\_\_\_\_ view of the Scriptures. You do not look at the Bible as man’s book, but rather God’s Word. It is not a book written with man’s opinions but God’s eternal truths!

† **John 17:17** – *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

† **Psalm 119:160** – *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.*

† **Psalm 119:89; Matthew 5:18**

B. Since the Holy Spirit inspired the Scripture (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**), and it is not of human origin (**2 Peter 1:20-21**), therefore we believe in the inerrancy and infallibility of the Scriptures. This simply means that we believe the Bible to be a perfect record of God’s truth without any \_\_\_\_\_ at all.

### 2. View God’s Word As The Authority Of Your Life.

A. Since you are saved by the Word of God, it must be your absolute, infallible guide to tell you how to live.

1) To illustrate: Every major purchase (car, appliance, etc.) is accompanied by an owner’s manual which tells you how to operate it. If you don’t go by the book, it won’t work properly. The Bible is God’s “owner’s manual” for your life. God would not save you and call you to service without clear, exact directions; but you must “go by the book.”

2) How do you know if you are viewing God’s Word as the authority of your life?

3) When you make decisions in life, do you base them on what the Bible says or what you think? Should anything supersede the Scriptures?

B. To begin to learn the Bible you must view it as absolutely perfect and authoritative in your life.

### 3. The Right Interpretation Of The Scriptures:

A. Have you ever wondered, “Why are there so many different denominations and groups that read from the same Bible but get different beliefs”? This has to do most often with how those groups interpret the Scriptures.

1) A **Literal interpretation** of Scriptures means we believe that what the Bible says is what it means. This can be referred to as a “normal interpretation of Scripture”. If the text is literal, we take it as literal, if it is allegorical or symbolic, we understand it that way. If a text is unclear, this position defaults to a literal understanding of the text.

2) An **Allegorical interpretation** of the Scriptures is a method of interpreting the Bible which gives a symbolic representation to the words in the Scriptures. In this system, the actual words are not understood in their normal sense, but in a symbolic sense, which results in a different meaning of the text, a meaning that, in the strictest sense, the text never intended to convey. The danger in this system, used by many, is that it reduces the Bible

to near-fiction, making the normal meaning of the words irrelevant and replacing them with whatever meaning the interpreter gives the symbols. If a text is unclear, this position defaults to an allegorical understanding of the text.

## B. Why we use literal interpretation:

- 1) God gave man language for the purpose of communication. Speech, words, and language all allow men to communicate. This allows God to reveal His truth to man through words so that man may know God and worship Him.
  - 2) First, if God originated language for the purpose of communication, and God is all wise, then we may believe that He saw to it that the means (language) was sufficient to sustain the purpose (communication).
  - 3) Second it would follow that God would use and expect man to use language in its normal sense.
    - a. God is a *God of truth* (**Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 31:5**) and only through normal, literal interpretation is truth revealed clearly.
    - b. Allegorical interpretations muddy up the waters so that everyone believes what they want. They twist the Scriptures for their “truth”. Therefore you could only end up with inconsistent and contradictory interpretations.
  - 4) When you examine the prophecies of Christ’s first coming, they were fulfilled literally. The wise men asked where Jesus would be born, and they quoted **Micah 5:2**, that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (**Matthew 2:1-8**). Jesus was literally born of a virgin (**Isaiah 7:14**); He was a descendent of David (**Isaiah 9:6**), He would be crucified and die for our sins (**Ps.22, Isaiah 53**), He would come out of Egypt (**Hosea 11:1/Matt.2:14-15**). The list goes on and on, but the point is, why do people believe the book of revelation is all allegorical, when past prophecies were literal? We must take Scripture to mean what it says.
- C. Words are the vehicles of thoughts and sentences; therefore we must study the words to get the meaning. Words and sentences always sit in the context of a passage. They never stand isolated. Therefore the context must be studied in order to see the relation of that verse to its surrounding verses, passage, chapter, and book.
- † Example: **1 Corinthians 15:19** - *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*
- This passage would be hard to understand until you read the verses leading up to verse 19 where Paul is talking about all the awful ramifications if the resurrection did not happen.
- † **1 Corinthians 15:16-17** - *For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.*
- D. Some today try to build a doctrine on one verse, but every doctrine will have other texts throughout the Scriptures to support it. Many false teachings and beliefs have arisen by isolating a passage and not comparing Scripture with Scripture.
- † **2 Corinthians 13:1** – *This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. (See also **Deuteronomy 19:15; Matthew 18:16**).*
- E. Some might say, “*That passage means something different to me than it does to you*”, but that should not be the case. Each passage has only one meaning, which is the “correct one.” If two interpretations are taken, one of them is wrong.
- F. “*What if I find something I don’t understand?*”
- 1) Don’t get upset about it. God will reveal it to you in time – when you are ready. God will not give you more than you are capable of handling. As you put into practice the things you are learning, God will entrust you with more.

- 2) One man said, "It's not the parts of the Bible I don't understand that bother me, it is the parts I do understand that bother me." Start with what you "know", and God will lead you into understanding more.

† **John 16:12** – *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.*

**G. "Where should I start reading?"**

- 1) As a young Christian, focus on the primary places that deal with your new relationship with your Heavenly Father.

- 2) The Gospel of John, the Epistle of **1 John**, and **Psalm 119** are excellent places to begin.

† **John 20:31** – *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

† **1 John 5:13** – *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

**4. How Should I Approach The Scriptures?**

**A. \_\_\_\_\_ that God will help you understand the Bible.**

- 1) What did David pray in **Psalm 119:18**?

† **Psalm 119:18** — *Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.*

- 2) In **Luke 24**, after Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples struggled to understand the Scriptures and the resurrection. What did Jesus do for them in **Luke 24:45**?

† **Luke 24:45** — *Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,*

- 3) Every time before you read, pray that God will help you understand His Word.

**B. Trust in the Holy Spirit to teach you.**

- 1) In **John 14:26** and **16:13**, who did Jesus say would guide the disciples into "all truth" and be their teacher after He left them? \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) The Bible teaches that unbelievers cannot understand the spiritual truths of God's Word because they do not have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them to teach them.

† **1 Corinthians 2:14** — *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

**C. Come with a consciousness of your \_\_\_\_\_ for God's Truth**

† **Job 23:12** — *Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.*

† **Mark 4:23-24** – *If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.*

- a. Jesus is teaching in this passage that the amount of attention you give to the Word of God will be measured back to you in understanding, and for those who really hear shall more be given! So come to the Word expecting and desiring to receive and you shall receive. But if you come without "ears to hear" don't expect to receive anything.

- b. Study with a \_\_\_\_\_ for the Word (**Psalm 119:97-104**)

- c. Study with a heart filled with \_\_\_\_\_ that believes God will teach you (**Romans 10:17, Hebrews 11:6**).

**D. The Right Discipline In Studying The Scriptures**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God every day

† **Colossians 3:16** – *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

- a. How can I do this? By “making” time to read instead of trying to “find” time. Why would this be important?
- b. Use a Bible calendar; set goals to read a certain amount every week; have an accountability partner who encourages you to read. (**Proverbs 27:17**)

2) \_\_\_\_\_ **the Word of God every day.**

† **2 Timothy 2:15** – *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

- a. Write down questions you want answered, and study the Bible to find the answers.
- b. Go through a discipleship course (like this one) and do the homework.
- c. Don’t depend upon your pastors to find all the answers for you. Rather, learn God’s Word yourself. This is the difference between being fed and feeding yourself. The older you get in the faith, the more you should feed yourself.
- d. When you come to a passage in the Bible you do not understand, study it until you know the meaning.

3) \_\_\_\_\_ **upon the Word of God.**

† **Joshua 1:8** – *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

- This means to constantly have God’s Word on your mind. We are to ponder and think about it continually. This will cause you to talk about it and tell others of it, because it is always upon your mind. This only comes from spending time in God’s Word.

4) \_\_\_\_\_ **the Word of God. (Psalms 119:9-11)**

- a. Memorize by using 3 x 5-inch note cards. Write the verse reference on one side and the passage on the other.
- b. Memorization will cause you to meditate upon the Word and allow you to resist the devil when temptation comes.
- c. Do not say, “I just can’t memorize verses.” This is like Moses saying, “Lord I can’t speak.” In all reality Moses was unwilling. Don’t use an excuse, instead pray for God’s help, and He will bless you as you seek to memorize His Word.

5) \_\_\_\_\_ **to the teaching of the Word of God**

† **Deuteronomy 31:11-13** - *When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.*

† **Joshua 8:33-35; Neh. 8:1-8; Romans 10:17; Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27**

- Use your phone to listen to the Bible while getting ready, or working around the house, or driving. Listen to sermons online (Lbcxenia.com; lbcxenia.podbean.com).

6) \_\_\_\_\_ **God’s Word to your children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9, 11:18-19).**

- God’s Word is clear parents are responsible to teach the Word to their children.

Homework

## Lesson 2 – How To Learn The Bible

2 Peter 3:18 – *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  
To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Life Group Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Memory Verse: \_\_\_\_\_

1) To understand the Bible, we learned we must have a “high” view of the Scriptures. How has your view of the Scriptures changed since you have been saved? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Since you have been saved, how does your life reflect God’s Word being the authority over your life? \_\_\_\_\_

3) What is the right method of interpretation of the Scriptures and why? \_\_\_\_\_

4) True / False – Each passage in the Bible could have many different correct interpretations.

5) Where should a new Christian be encouraged to start reading and why? \_\_\_\_\_

6) What are things you should do as you approach the Scriptures from the following verses? (#4 on your lesson)

a. Psalm 119:18 - \_\_\_\_\_

b. John 14:26 - \_\_\_\_\_

c. Mark 4:23-24 - \_\_\_\_\_

d. Psalm 119:97-104 - \_\_\_\_\_

e. Romans 10:17 - \_\_\_\_\_

7) How can you have the discipline in studying the Scriptures from the following verses? (#5 on your lesson)

a. Colossians 3:16 - \_\_\_\_\_

b. 2 Timothy 2:15 - \_\_\_\_\_

c. Joshua 1:8 - \_\_\_\_\_

d. Psalm 119:9-11 - \_\_\_\_\_

e. Deuteronomy 31:11-13 - \_\_\_\_\_

f. Deuteronomy 6:6-9, 11:18-19 - \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions or comments for your class leaders: \_\_\_\_\_

Class leader’s signature of completion \_\_\_\_\_

