



DISCIPLESHIP 1

SESSION 2

*THE DISCIPLINE OF A
DAILY DEVOTIONAL*



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One of the essential disciplines of a disciple of Jesus is the habit of spending a daily time with God. The main reason we were created was to have a genuine, deep and close, love relationship with our creator. That's why every highly effective and fulfilled Christian has made this discipline their top priority.

"I have so many things to do today, I dare not ignore my time with God."

Martin Luther

"Nothing will help us grow spiritually more than spending time alone with God every day, reading His word and praying. Time alone with God is essential for our spiritual welfare."

Billy Graham

The habit of a daily time with God involves reading and applying God's word and praying to God.

In the next session we will cover prayer and fasting, so this section will focus on the Bible, the living book through which God Himself speaks to us.

THE BIBLE IS OUR FINAL AUTHORITY

God gave us the Bible as our owner's manual for the way He designed life to be lived. He created us, so He knows how we were created to live. He gave us the instructions through His word on how we should live to find true fulfillment.

The Bible is our one true foundation and authority for living. God communicates His will, truth and love to us primarily through His word. If we truly trust God we will obey His word and follow His way.

"They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.' You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions...Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." Mark 7:7-8, 13 (NIV)

QUIZ

- Is the phrase, "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes," in the Bible? YES
- Is the phrase, "God helps those who help themselves." in the Bible? NO
- Is the phrase, "Money is the root of all evil," in the Bible? NO
- Is the phrase, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want," in the Bible? YES
- Is the book of Hezekiah in the Old Testament or New Testament? NEITHER
- The King James Version of the Bible is the one used by Jesus - T/F FALSE

THE BIBLE IS UNIQUE

Whether someone believes the Bible or not, everyone has to agree that the Bible is very unique. First it's unique in its composition. In one volume it contains 66 books; 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. It was written by some 40 authors inspired by God over a span of some 1,500 years across three continents in three languages: Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic. And yet, the Bible is one cohesive story from cover to cover. It is the powerful, life changing story of God's faithful love for you and me!

- The bible is unique in its CIRCULATION. It is without question the most published book in the history of the world. The Bible is the best selling book of the year, every year for the last 300 years! Roughly 100 million copies are sold or distributed globally each year. This last year in the U.S., the Bible sales hit a 21 year high. (Up 12%) In Europe, especially the U.K. there is unprecedented interest in the Bible. Bible sales are up more than 134% since 2019; driven by Gen Z and younger readers looking for truth, stability and spirituality.
- The Bible is unique in its STAYING POWER. It's survived bans, burnings, ridicule and criticism from emperors, kings, and rulers who've tried to eradicate it. Even today the Bible is banned in many countries but it continues to be read and studied. Even with the threat of persecution, people continue reading the Bible in those nations. The more they try to eradicate it, the more it grows.
- The Bible is unique in its EFFECT ON LIVES.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

1. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- The Hittites
- King Belshazzar of Babylon
- "House of David" stone
- The Caiaphas Ossuary
- The Pilate Dedication Stone

2. THE MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE

- 25,000 ancient manuscripts
- The Dead Sea Scrolls

3. THE PROPHETICAL EVIDENCE

Mathematician Peter Stoner calculated that the chances of one man fulfilling 48 of the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah are: **1 in**

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0,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,00,
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000,000,000,000 quadrillion.**

4. THE PERSONAL EVIDENCE

If you're a Christ follower, it's important to remember that you not only have the book, but you also have the author of the book with you to help you understand it. You have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit to help guide you in understanding and applying God's Word. He reveals to you who God is, His ways and purposes that you may know Him intimately and follow His will for your life. In John 16:13, Jesus said, "the Spirit of Truth ... will guide you into all truth." Claim this promise as you read the Bible.

DAILY SPENDING TIME IN GOD'S WORD

1. PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you will be reading. Keep in mind, the purpose of the Bible is not simply information, but transformation. It was written not to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives. Real breakthrough happens not when we know the word of God, but when we know it and apply it to our lives. The reason we want to know and apply God's word is so we can grow closer to Jesus!

"You have your heads in your Bibles constantly because you think you'll find eternal life there. But you miss the forest for the trees. These Scriptures are all about me!" John 5:39 MSG

2. READ

Read one or two chapters from God's word. You can pick a reading plan that will take you through the Bible in one year or the New Testament in a year. Remember, however, it's better to go slower and let the Holy Spirit open your eyes to the powerful truths in The Word, than rush through several chapters a day to accomplish a goal. The goal should be daily consistency.

3. WRITE

Write out one or two verses that really spoke to you. You also might write out a principal or a truth that God opened your eyes to.

4. APPLY

What is the one big takeaway that you can apply to your life from the reading? Write that down and ask God to give you the power to live it out.

MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE

"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers." Psalm 1:1-3 (NIV)

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Lectio Divina: DIVINE OR SACRED READING

1. Read the verse out loud

"Stop striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted on the earth." Psalm 46:10 (NASB)

2. Read the verse out loud a second time and ask, "What in this verse speaks to my life?"

3. Read the verse a third time and ask God, "What do you want me to do differently today?"

4. Read the verse a fourth time. This time, just take a deep breath and rest in God's presence and let His word refresh you.

Your Notes:

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