

HOW TO READ THE WORD

Discipleship Guide #10

TODAY'S GOAL

- Your student(s) understands the power of the Word of God and with the understanding of its divine provision, its inerrancy, and its ability to help solve any worldly issue; your student(s) embarks on a habitual reading of God's Word that leads to a deep personal relationship with Him; understanding His character and Who He is.
- In preparation for this discipleship guide think through your own process of studying God's Word. Do you have a system or habit that works for you? Take time to think through your own application of 'consuming' God's Word for yourself. Read through this lesson and with your student(s) in mind, pray that the Lord would equip you with the wisdom and knowledge to help your student(s) set up a study plan that works for them.

OPEN IN PRAYER

- Pray together and ask God to prepare your hearts to hear from His Word today. Have the Student(s) deliberately ask God for wisdom and self-reflection in discerning what the best approach for studying His word is for them. Ask for the Lord to reveal His Living Word to you no matter where you are reading.

GET TO KNOW WHERE YOUR STUDENT(S) (S) IS AT

- In discussing the following questions be ready to discuss follow up questions to your student(s) for further understanding of where they are at in their time in the Word.
- Discuss: **What do you do when you sit down to read God's word today?**
- Discuss: **Do you read specifically somewhere in the bible?**
- Discuss: **Do you read a devotional?**
- Discuss: **How much time do you spend in Quiet Time; how often?**

DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF DAILY BIBLE READING

- Have your student(s) read each of the following verses and share, considering each passage, why they believe reading the Bible in their quiet time is important for our daily relationship with Him as believers:
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 1:2; Romans 15:4; Matthew 6:33**

PROVIDE PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR YOUR STUDENT(S) (S) TIME IN THE WORD

- Walk your student(s) through each below tool when approaching time in the Word to provide them with more practicalities of how to go about studying God's Word. Feel free to add other ways of going about the following key tools.
- *Praying before reading* - Share with your student(s) the benefit of praying before every time in God's Word. Explain to them the benefit in your life (hopefully you do this before you read the Word 😊). In this time, share the following types of prayer to include in your time before God prior to reading His Word:
 - Acknowledge Who God is.

- Confess and repent of our sins (clearing the way for God to talk to us through His Word).
- Ask God to reveal what He has in store for you, through His word, today.
- *Approaches to reading the Word:*
 - From beginning to end: Reading a bit every day until finished (Genesis to Revelation).
 - Book of the Bible Studies: Picking a book of the Bible and doing a verse-by-verse study (Some bounce back and forth between old and New Testament books).
- *Journaling:*
 - Some people find it helpful to journal some thoughts on the passage read each day.
 - What is God saying?
 - How do I apply what He is saying, to my life today?
- *Accountability:*
 - Journaling can help with this...by sending your journal entry for the day to an accountability partner...and have that partner share theirs with you.
- *A note about commentaries or study guides:*
 - There are some wonderful resources with people's thoughts on passages of the bible; however, consider searching God's instruction to you through His Holy Spirit before going to other people's commentaries or study guides.
- *Meditation throughout the day:*
 - Talk to the student(s) about praying chewing-on/reflecting-on the passage (and message of it) throughout the rest of their day; looking for opportunities to apply what God is telling them. Talk about looking for themes in their reading, worship singing, and interaction with fellow believers; God has a habit of telling us something repeatedly, just in different ways as we search Him.

LIFESTYLE BUILDING BLOCK

- At the end of the day, this lesson is focused on creating a set of reading habits that lead to a closer relationship with Jesus by studying His character, His TRUTH, His commands, and His Promises. Ultimately, the regular reading of God's word will promote a stronger desire to learn more and conduct our lives in alignment with God's TRUTH which brings peace, strength, obedience, and self-control. Help your student(s) develop a plan to spend intentional time with the Lord from today forward. Write down their answers to the following questions on a white board (if possible) to give you specifics to encourage them to uphold:
 - **What time of day is best for you to spend intentional time with the Lord in the Word and prayer? How much time do you feel is practical to start with when spending time with God?**

CLOSE IN PRAYER

- End in prayer considering the passages read at the beginning about reading God's word. Pray for an increased desire to seek God through His word. Pray for opportunities to share with others, what God has taught us.

