

HERITAGE BASICS: Lesson 2

KNOWING THE BIBLE

Memory Verse 2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

READ: The Bible is the Word of God. God has written His word for us and it is the only rule, standard, & authority we have for life, behavior, & life. There may be other things we learn from in life but nothing else has the authority of God's Word! When the Bible Speaks, it is the voice of God and our Standard.

QUESTION: So how should we learn and apply Scripture?

The 5 ways to get a grip on the Bible:

1. **HEAR** The Bible

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. —Romans 10:17

2. **READ** The Bible

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near. —Revelation 1:3

3. **STUDY** The Bible

Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. —Acts 17:11

4. **MEMORIZE** The Bible

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You. —Psalm 119:9-11

5. **MEDITATE** On The Bible

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers. —Psalm 1:2-3

I. WHY SHOULD WE KNOW THE BIBLE?

a. List 5 Reasons why Christians should know God's Word

i. 2 Timothy 2:15 _____

ii. 1 Peter 2:2 _____

iii. Psalm 119:11 _____

iv. Psalm 119:38 _____

v. Psalm 119:105 _____

b. We study Scripture because it is Sufficient.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. — 2 Timothy 3:16

II. HOW DO WE “GET TO KNOW” THE BIBLE?

a. **HEAR IT...** *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.—Romans 10:17*

i. Whom did Jesus say would be blessed (Luke 11:28)?

ii. When proclaiming the Word, what should pastors and teachers do (Nehemiah 8:7-8)?

b. **READ IT...** *Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near. —Revelation 1:3*

i. Write Revelation 1:3 in your own words.

ii. To what does Paul ask Timothy to turn his attention (1 Timothy 4:13)?

NOTE: *If you do not have a daily reading plan, start with the Gospel of Mark or John. If you read 2 chapters a day, you will complete the New Testament in just 19 Weeks!*

c. **STUDY IT...** When Paul left Thessalonica and went to Berea, he shared the gospel with the unbelieving Jews. What he found was that they, “*were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.* —Acts 17:11

i. Attitudes towards studying the Bible

1. According to Acts 17:11, what two traits did the Bereans demonstrate?

2. How should we search for wisdom or understanding (Proverbs 2:4)?

NOTE: *Bible study is more than just reading the Bible; it involves careful observation, interpretation, and application. Reading gives you the overall picture, but study helps you think, learn, and apply what you read to your life.*

d. **MEMORIZE IT** – “*How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word... Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.*” (Psalm 119:9-11)

i. How did God command Israel to remember His Word?

1. Deuteronomy 11:18a _____

2. Deuteronomy 11:19 _____

ii. Read Matthew 4:4, 7, 10.

1. During the three confrontations with Satan, what did Jesus do to overcome His temptations?

2. How might you apply this example to your own life?

iii. Write Psalm 40:8 in your own words.

NOTE: *It is easier to memorize with a purpose. Understanding the meaning or application of the passage will make memorizing easier.*

e. **MEDITATE ON IT** *“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.” (Psalm 1:1-3)*

i. **Definition:** Meditation is prayerful reflection on Scripture with a view toward understanding an application. Give prayerful thought to God’s Word with the goal of conforming your life to His will.

ii. Meditation on Scripture can be done as you:

1. Hear the Word preached.
2. Read the Bible.
3. Pray about what you are studying.
4. Reflect on the verses you have memorized.

iii. How does Meditation assist you (Joshua 1:8)?

iv. Do you think God's Word can affect your speech and actions? How? (See Luke 6:45.)

v. Besides being diligent in learning God's Word, what else should we do in order to understand it (Psalm 119:73, 125)?

III. THE BIBLE STUDY PROCESS

a. STEP 1: Preparation

i. What should we do before we approach the Scriptures (1 Peter 2:1-2)?

ii. What should our prayer be as we prepare to study God's Word (Colossians 1:9-10)?

NOTE: Spend a short time in prayer before each study. Confess any sin and ask the Holy Spirit, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law" (Psalm 119:18)

b. STEP 2: Observation "What is taking place? What do I see?"

i. Ask questions as you read, and write them down. Who? What? Where? When?

ii. As you observe the passage, look for:

1. Key words, & subjects (people, topics)
2. Commands (particularly verbs)
3. Warnings
4. Repeated Words and Phrases
5. Comparisons (things similar; things different)
6. Questions, answers given.
7. Anything unusual or unexpected

c. STEP 3: Interpretation "What does it mean?"

i. Scripture can be clear. Whom has God given to teach us (1 John 2:27)?

ii. Begin by asking interpretive questions

1. What is the importance of: A word? A phrase? Names? Titles? Dates? Others?
2. What is the meaning of a particular word?
3. Why did the write say this?
4. What is the implication of this word, phrase, or name?

iii. To find answers to your interpretive questions, use:

1. The Context—verses before and after the passage you are studying
2. Definitions of words
3. Grammar and sentence structure
4. Other passages of Scripture
5. Bible study tools, such as:
 - a. Bible Dictionaries, Concordances, Bible handbooks, Bible encyclopedias, Bible Commentaries

6. When interpreting Scripture, remember:
 - a. That all Scripture will agree. It will not contradict itself.
 - b. To let the passage speak for itself in its context. Be careful not to draw conclusions that the author did not intend.

NOTE: *There is only one correct interpretation of any particular passage of Scripture—the author’s originally intended meaning.*

- d. **STEP 4: Application** “What effect will this have on my life?”
 - i. Once you have heard the Word of God, what should your response be (James 1:22)?
 - ii. A simple tool to help you apply what you have learned is to “put on the **SPECS.**” Is there a:
 - Sin to forsake?
 - Promise to claim?
 - Example to follow?
 - Command to obey
 - Stumbling block to avoid?

NOTE: *While there is only one correct interpretation of a passage, there are many applications.*

- e. **STEP 5: Repetition**
 - i. Bible study is a repetitive process.
 1. Steps 2, 3, & 4 are used over and over again.
 2. *Observe, Interpret, then apply.*
 - a. You may want to do this for each word, phrase, and/or thought.
 3. The more passes you make through a verse, the deeper its meaning is opened to you.

IV. STUDY EXERCISE *“But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).*

a. Using Matthew 6:33 and the Worksheet:

- i. Make as many observations as you can and list them in the “Observations” column below.
- ii. Write “Interpretive Questions” about your observations.
- iii. Write the meaning of your observation in the “Interpretations” column.
- iv. Once you have completed your observations and interpretations, fill in the “Application” section.

Note: *The first 6 have been given as examples.*

“But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

Observations	Interpretive Questions	Interpretations
1.The verse starts with the conjunction <i>but</i> .	1.Why does the sentence start with <i>but</i>	1.This verse is linked to the previous verses. Must read Matthew 6:31-32 for context.
2.Key word: <i>Seek</i>	2. What does it mean? What action does <i>seek</i> require?	2. It means to pursue or search. It is a command.
3.The verb <i>seek</i> is in the present tense.	3. What does present tense indicate?	3.I must seek <i>NOW</i> .
4.Note the use of the word <i>first</i> following <i>seek</i> .	4.What is the importance of <i>first</i> ?	4.Implies priority. Must seek as a top priority
5.Next key word is <i>Kingdom</i>	5.What does the word <i>kingdom</i> signify?	5.It is a sovereign rule or dominion over a specific realm or region.
6.The word <i>kingdom</i> is preceded by the personal pronoun <i>His</i> .	6. Whose Kingdom is identified? To whom does <i>His</i> refer?	6.Looking back to verse 32, <i>His</i> refers to the “Father.” It is God’s Kingdom.
7.	7.	7.
8.	8.	8.
9.	9.	9.
10.	10.	10.
11.	11.	11.
12.	12.	12.

Application- Write out one application based on your observations and interpretations. (Remember SPECS)

V. FINAL LESSON APPLICATION

a. Question: assessing your habits for making the Bible yours...

- i. Are the 168 hours in your week being invested well? Should you make any changes?
- ii. Below write how many hours each week do you spend in the Word now

1. Then pray about setting a new Goal?

- a. Hearing: Now _____ & Goal _____
- b. Reading: Now _____ & Goal _____
- c. Studying: Now _____ & Goal _____
- d. Memorizing: Now _____ & Goal _____