

# ***The Importance of God's Word***

The BIBLE is God's letter to you. When you receive a letter in the mail, you read it, don't you?

Well, God has sent you a letter. The Bible is a list of all your assets in Christ (all the things Christ has purchased for you). When you accept Jesus into your heart and life, you become a joint-heir with Him (You get everything that He gets!). When you read the Bible, you find out all the things you inherit when you begin a New Life in God!

The Bible is one of the most effective tools in helping you learn and grow in your relationship with God - so let's learn how to enjoy it!

## ***"The Word"***

You may have noticed that the Bible is often referred to as "the Word". We call it that because it is one of the biggest ways God speaks to us! We use our words to express ourselves to others, and God uses His "Word" to express Himself to us. Here are a few ways to the "the Word" into your life:

### ***Hearing***

Hearing is vital. The Bible says that **FAITH** comes by hearing the Word! (Romans 10:17). So, form the habit of attending as many worship meetings and church services as possible. You will never regret doing this, as it will greatly strengthen you and help you to HEAR the WORD. Always take your Bible with you so that you can become familiar with the Bible and look up the passages that the speaker refers to. Oh, and TAKE NOTES! This will help you remember what was shared and help you learn better!

### ***Reading***

Another way to absorb the Word is to read it regularly! Our habits form our character. One of the best habits you can form is to read the Bible every day! Set a reachable goal for yourself so you don't get overwhelmed. Start with reading about fifteen minutes in the morning. Start small and work your way up. It might be a good idea to carry a small Bible with you, and read it during lunchtime or other free times during the day.

### ***Studying***

Studying the Bible is like reading it, but usually you will look at a smaller portion of scripture, then examine it for deeper meanings and applications. This is also very important, but requires a little more time. Many people will study a certain verse, or study a topic or word they find in the Bible. IE: Love, Honor, Wisdom or How does God want me to date? or What does God think about money? When you study, **ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you and teach you about God**, and He will!

*For more indepth ways to study scripture, ask your Life Group or Resource Leader and they can direct you to more helpful tools.*

### ***Memorizing***

Memorizing verses is a powerful tool to help you renew your mind, which helps transform your life. (Romans 12:2). A good idea is to write the verse out on a note card and carry it with you. This way you can look at it often during the day. The most important thing about memorizing is letting the meaning of the words sink deep into your heart. Verses that seem meaningful are great ones to memorize.

### ***Doing***

Hearing, reading, studying, and memorizing will be of no benefit in your relationship with God unless you DO what the Word says (James 1:22-25). Obedience is crucial to your relationship with God. You are presently experiencing God's blessing because you've obeyed His call to serve Him. God said that obedience would always bring blessing into our life. Conversely, disobedience will bring curses. Do what the Word says and you will be blessed.

### ***Practical Steps on How to Read the Bible***

1. Find a quiet place (it may be the basement or attic, or you may have to get up earlier than others). But, this will help you focus and be able to listen to God too!
2. Set a regular time daily. We are creatures of habit, so create a way to give time to God, start at 15min, but build up to more! Many people say an hour with God has been key to helping them know Him and hear Him more clearly!
3. Have a notebook handy (you can even have colored highlighters too!). You will want to write down things God reveals and even mark certain passages that really speak to you!
4. To help you get started, use this guide: S.O.A.P.

**S**-Scripture verse(s) - determine what verse(s) you want to read and then read them outloud if possible.

**O**-observe what you just read. Ask yourself, “what is being said here and why is it being communicated or why is it significant?” Write it down.

**A**-apply what you just read by seeing what it meant to those the passage was written to, and then what you can take from it for yourself now. Write it down.

**P**-pray. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you walk out what you learned and to continue to reveal God to you through that passage. Write down anything you sense God speaking to you.

### ***Satan’s attacks***

Satan is God’s enemy. He is also your enemy. He will subtly attack the Scriptures to make you doubt the integrity of your Heavenly Father. He often will help plant excuses in your mind so you won’t spend time in the Bible like:

- *I don’t have time / I’m too tired / I’m too busy / I always get sleepy when I read / I don’t know where to start / I’m not getting anything out of it / I don’t understand / God is mad at me / etc...*

And there are more! But YOU be strong! Be aware of his tactics. The more Bible you can get into you, the more genuine faith you will have and the more accomplishments you will experience!

### **Look at the following passages:**

Joshua 1:8	Psalms 1	Isaiah 55:10-11	Acts 17:10-11	Romans 10:17
	Hebrews 4:12	John 15:7	John 8:31-32	

### **Questions to go deeper:**

1. From what we have looked at, what are some benefits that we receive from reading the Bible?
2. What Scripture can you commit to memorize before we meet next time from the verses listed above?
3. Have you ever made a plan to help you read the Bible?
  - a. If yes, how are you doing? Would you like to revamp it?
  - b. If no, would you be open to creating a plan that you can begin today?
4. One of the best ways to spend time with God is to make it a part of our daily routine. Where can we put time in your daily schedule to help you be consistent?
5. Are there particular topics that you would like to study in the Bible? Perhaps you and your Life Group leader can go through some of these throughout the semester!