

How to Use Your Bible with Life Center's Handouts

I. Basics to Begin

1. Why is reading the Bible important? The Bible is the Living Word (Look up Hebrews 4:12.)
 - a. The Old Testament is written for you. (Look up Romans 15:4.)
 - i. The Israelites and the sacrificial system (the Law) are all types and shadows of Christ.
 - b. The New Testament is written to you. (Look up Hebrews 1:1-2.)
 - i. Christ fulfilled the Law and made us sons of a new spiritual kingdom. He is the shadow of the Old Testament in substance. (Look up 1 Cor 6:19.)
 - c. You will discover God the Father and will see your worth and identity. (Look up 1 John 3:1)

The Word becomes a living thing only when we act on it. ~ E.W. Kenyon, Jesus the Healer

2. What is the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant?
 - a. The Old Testament ends at the crucifixion of Christ. Until that time, God dealt with the Israelites through the Law.
 - b. The New Testament starts at the resurrection of Christ. After Christ paid for our sin and we accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, God deals with us as Son through the indwelling Spirit.
 - c. Separate the old Law based Covenant from the new grace based Covenant.
3. Forty writers, sixty-six books, One author
 - a. Broken into chapters
 - b. Chapters broken into verses to help find the text

The Bible is the only book we read for the sole purpose of getting to know the author. ~ Bob George

4. How to read Chapter and Verse
 - a. Read the outlines at the beginning of your Bible to understand the book's purpose.
 - i. Correctional, informative, history, etc.
 - b. Read the outlines at the beginning of your Bible so that you know the audience.
 - i. Gentiles, Jews, both, specific person, etc.
 - c. Sometimes the only way to understand a verse is through knowing the purpose and the audience.
 - d. Sometimes you will need to read verses or chapters many times and add other knowledge before things connect and speak to your heart and circumstance.
 - e. If verses confuse or concern you, seek help from your discipler.
5. Plan to read the Bible
 - a. Set a realistic plan, cut yourself slack, ask God to will in you a desire for His Word.
 - b. Suggestions: Daily devotions/readings on the phone, phone reminders, voice recorded verses (memorization), join a Bible study group, ask a friend to join you.

When we pray, we speak to God; when we study God's Word, God speaks to us.

~ Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg, Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus

II. Suggestions to Start

1. Galatians 5:17-22 (Two ways of living)
 - a. Notice Paul contrasts two ways of living. The flesh (self-reliance) vs. the Spirit (living from Christ's life).
 - b. As we cover session handouts, we will answer questions and help you see the Christ-centered applications.
2. Romans Five
 - a. Explains that believers have peace with God through Christ. Explains that you are either "in Adam" or "in Christ."
3. Romans Six
 - a. Explains how co-crucifixion took you from being "in Adam" and placed you "in Christ."
4. Romans Seven
 - a. Explains that we approach God through Christ, not keeping the Law (merit).
5. Romans Eight
 - a. Explains the practical thing you need to know and do to walk in victory. Many of our handouts will help you to understand the verses in Romans.
6. Romans Twelve
 - a. Since you are a new creation, who can live from Christ's indwelling life, live from Christ's life and thereby fulfill the Law. To walk in Christ, you must deny positive flesh through the obedience of faith.
7. Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians
 - a. Each of these books (as well as the book of Romans) lay a foundation of our identity in Christ before they say to walk in a manner worthy. First Paul teaches that you are a new creation in Christ. Then he says to live from the life of Christ instead of the flesh-life.
8. The Gospel of John
 - a. It is written is to Jews who are under the Law and are not born again. You may need your discipler to help you understand some of the verses. While we are not under the Law, Christ was sent to fulfill the Law in us.
 - b. Colossians 1:15 tells us that Jesus is the exact representation of the Father.
 - c. As you go through the gospel of John, highlight the different encounters Jesus has with people. What is Jesus showing you about your Heavenly Father?

Our handouts have many verses to look up. When reading the Bible, ask God to show you Himself and His truths. Mark important verses in your Bible for yourself and to share them with others. Also, our handouts are available on our website resource page. Please feel free to use them to help others.

1. Study the verses on the Forgiveness Handout
2. Study the verses on the Concept of God Handout
3. Study the verses on the Concept of Self Handout
4. Study the verses on the Flesh Handouts Handout
5. Study the verses on the Brokenness Handout