

Lesson Two - Reading The Bible & Prayer

Foundation Scriptures: 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT) “For the word of God is alive and powerful, it is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”

Basic facts about the Bible:

- Contains 66 books – 39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament books.
- Both the Old & New Testament are divided into 4 sections:
- Old Testament (The Torah, Jewish history, wisdom & poetry; prophetic writings)
- New Testament (The gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John & Acts; Paul's letters – (about 2 thirds of the N.T.); general letters; and prophecy (the book of Revelation).
- The Old Testament was written in Hebrew & Aramaic
- The New Testament was written in primarily in Greek.
- Longest book in the bible is Psalms; the shortest is 3 John.
- Major teachings:
 - The 10 commandments (Deuteronomy)
 - Psalms & Proverbs
 - The Beatitudes (Sermon on the mount- Matthew 5-7)

Major Truths about God's Word:

1. John 1:1 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
2. Psalm 119:105 – “Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.”
3. **Matthew 4:4** But he answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”
4. **Proverbs 30:5** Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
5. **Psalm 119:11** I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
6. **Romans 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Prayer & The Word of God:

- Word of God (The Bible): The principles, promises, and life guidance that help us understand God's will for our lives.
- Prayer:
- Talking To God about our lives

- Agreeing with God's will
- Sharing our desire to experience what He has promised
- Asking for His guidance.

Scriptures that validate praying God's Word: (all from the New Living Translation)

- o John 15:7 "But if you remain in me, and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!"
- o 1 John 5:14-15 – "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him."
- o Matthew 7:7 – "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."
- o Isaiah 55:11 – "So is my word that goes out from my mouth; it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I send it."

Discussion Questions:

1. The most important part of prayer is:
 - a. Honest moments talking to God about real-life issues.
 - b. Spending time in the presence of God
 - c. Agreement with the Word of God.
 - d. All of the above

2. How can I know that God will answer my prayers?
 - a. Being sincere and honest when you pray
 - b. Only asking for things you genuinely need
 - c. By asking God to do what He already promised