

G.R.O.W.

A Guide for Getting in the Word and Growing in Your Faith.



“A Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn’t.” – Charles Spurgeon

God promises a blessing and the fullness of life for those that delight in His Word and those that meditate upon it (Psalm 1). Imagine living in the fullness of God’s blessing, what a rich and full life is found there. If we want that life, we must be in His Word; we must G.R.O.W. in His Word.

GET FOCUSED

“One of the best gifts we can give ourselves is time alone with God.”

Psalm 46:10 tells us to “be still and know that I am God.” The aim of our Bible reading is to hear from God. Let’s revere the opportunity we have to spend time with Him and remove distractions. There is a lot of noise in our world, a lot of things vying for our attention. If we want to get the most from our Bible reading, we need to get focused, where we turn down the noise of the world and within ourselves, where we are focused and ready to listen to Him.

“The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home.” - Augustine of Hippo

Some people need background noise to focus, some people need a quiet nook. Whatever it is that helps you focus and be still before God, do that, so that you can get the most from your time in His Word.

READ THE WORD

“Don’t say God is silent when your Bible is closed. Open it and read it. God will speak.” - Adam Cappa

When we read the Bible, we hear Him speak because the Bible is God’s Word (2 Timothy 3:15-17). So, it’s important to actually read the Bible, not just books about the Bible. There are many great books on Christian Living and Faith, books that are built on Biblical principles and books that reference the Bible. These books are good to read along with your Bible reading, but they are no substitute for actually reading the Bible.

We recommend using a good devotional, as it helps explain and apply the Bible, but don’t just rely on the Bible reference and explanation; take the time to find the passage in your

Bible and read it. Using your Bible for reading the passages will help you become more familiar with your Bible and will allow you to highlight and make markings that you can look back on later.

“Visit many good books but live in the Bible.” – Spurgeon

So, where to start with Bible reading? Many suggest starting with the Gospel of John because of its conversational format and focus on Jesus. On our website, you can find links for reading plans and devotions. Also, often your church small group or Sunday School class utilizes study books that have reading plans; using them as a guide for Bible reading will help you prepare for group discussions or review.

OBSERVE

The Bible was not given for our information but for our transformation.” – DL Moody

Our aim is not simply reading, but we want to understand its meaning and apply His Word to our lives. While reading your Bible, **C.O.M.B.** through the text.

Context: Every verse has a larger narrative that it is a part of. Context will help you understand how verses fit within the larger picture.

Observe key words and phrases. Take note of the main ideas and words.

Meaning: What do the words mean. What is being said? Use study tools.

Bottom-line: What’s the main take away or one big idea I can focus on?



“Apply yourself wholly to the Scriptures & apply the Scriptures wholly to yourself.” - Bengel

A good study Bible is a worthwhile investment. Study Bibles, like Holman’s Study Bible, provide background information on the books of the Bible and helpful insights as you read. There are also great online tools to help you study. Visit our site and find links and recommendations for other study tools.

WORSHIP

“Reading the Bible is not where your engagement ends. It is where it begins.” – Heiser

Remember the goal is to honor the Lord. Worship is more than songs; it is displaying the worthiness of God, and our lives will either exemplify or negate the songs we sing. So, close your quiet time by focusing on worship.

“The Bible is the only book whose author is always present when you read it.”

Take a few moments to meditate on the text, think through its meaning and application. And pray, asking God to help you live out His Word. Focus on how your life can be worship and live out His Word (Romans 12:1-2). Then continue to think about it throughout the day, letting His Word get down inside of you and take root, so that it can bear fruit in your life.

G.R.O.W.T.H.

There are 2 additions that we like to add. The 4 steps of G.R.O.W. will help you get in the Word and grow in your faith, but there are 2 more steps that will help produce sustained G.R.O.W.T.H.

TELL OTHERS

“We are the Bibles the world is reading; we are the creeds the world is needing; we are the sermons the world is heeding.” -Billy Graham

Discussing what you’re reading and learning in God’s Word helps it take deeper root in your life. Sharing through social media is a great way to share with many people, but we encourage you to share it personally with others. You can say to others, “I read something inspiring today” and then share the scripture with them. And you can bring it up with your family at the dinner table.

Not only will sharing God’s Word with others make an impact on them, inspiring them to get into God’s Word, but it will help your growth. Telling others is a vital component for lasting growth.

HABITS

“Bible is bread for daily use not cake for special occasions.”

Just as someone will not be physically healthy by only eating once a week, our spiritual health suffers without daily habit of being in the Word. The more time we invest in the Bible, the greater the return in our lives.

Forming new habits takes time and intentional effort. Some things that can help you develop this habit is selecting a consistent time and place to read your Bible. Like many things, simply hoping to squeeze it into our day rarely works; we must be intentional and disciplined in committing time for it every day. What time of day and location will give you the time and concentration you need to read God’s Word?

The Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from the Bible – Moody

Another habit that will aid in your growth is memorization. Hiding God’s Word in our hearts gives us strength and power for life’s struggles, temptations, and worries (Psalm 119:11). Try these 3 steps to memorize God’s Word. You can easily and quickly memorize God’s Word.

- 1) Read the verse out loud 10 times.
- 2) Try to speak the verse from memory 10 times, looking at the Bible when needed. You should have it memorized before you reach 10 times.
- 3) Review your memory verses regularly.

“Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years.” - Charles Spurgeon

God’s Word is living and active (Hebrews 4:12). Whenever we go to the scripture, we always find God there. You will never exhaust God or His Word. You can read the same passage a million times and always find a fresh and timely word. Spend time in His Word and G.R.O.W. and then go the next step and tell others and develop godly habits, so you can experience sustained and powerful G.R.O.W.T.H.

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