


# DEEPER with *God*



All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*



**DEO GLORIA**  
Community Church Rockingham

*40 days in the WORD*

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## **Introduction**

When I first met Yusuf Marasli, a young medical doctor, then about 28 years old, in October 2001, in Turkey, his incredible knowledge of the Word of God astonished me. What astonished me was the fact that here, was a young believer of around 2 years who was hungry for the Word of God. He could not understand a word of English, I could not speak any Turkish, but with the Word of God and a dictionary we could study the Word together.

Later, we moved to Samsun, in Turkey for full-time ministry and formed a ministry team together with Yusuf. At that time, he worked as a doctor, in a public hospital. He worked 24 hours non-stop so he could get one day off. On his day off, he used to visit people who wanted to know more about Jesus. Then, he would work another 24 hours non-stop, to get another day off, which he used to spend reading the Bible. Yusuf accepted Christ as his saviour, just by reading the New Testament.

Perhaps we have become so accustomed to the Word of God that we no longer believe in the transforming power of God's Word. If you were to ask Yusuf to do

something or what he thinks about a subject, he would say let's read the Word first, hear what God is saying through his Word and then we pray about it.

The Bible is not words about God but is the Word of God. The Word of God is unique, there is nothing to compare it with. The Word is alive and powerful, and when God speaks to us through the Word, people's lives are transformed.

Hear what the Psalmist says about God's Word.

*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law, he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.* Psalm 1:1-3 (NIV - 1984).

This ties in with our year theme – Deeper with God. A person who wants to grow deeper in faith will only succeed if he or she regularly meditates on the Word of God and finds his or her joy in God's Word. And this joy is not superficial pleasure. Rather, it works almost like gravity, which you have no control over. If I drop something, gravity pulls it to the ground.

Likewise, when you have discovered the truth of God in and through His Word, and you experience the wonder of God and His Word, it draws you automatically into joy and peace. And this joy creates a desire for even more.

We believe that through this series God wants to bring us back to His Word and God wants to teach us to love His Word, to hunger for His Word. Our prayer is that we will be changed by the reading of the Word. And that by spending time with the Word we will grow deeper in faith and draw closer to God.

Soli Deo Gloria!  
To God the glory alone!



# **Week 1 – Our God-Breathed Bible**

MEMORY VERSE - *2 Timothy 3:16–17. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*


## **Introduction to this weeks' study**

“God-breathed” or Holy Spirit inspired can be defined as *“a divine influence directly and immediately exerted upon the mind or soul.”*

The Greek word for "inspired" describes ships sails filled with wind, being carried along over the seas. Paul says every Scripture is the product of the Spirit's work. He filled the writers and carried them along producing His Words. And even though God's Word bears the mark or style of the writer's personality, every Word is the true and sure word of God Himself. Inspired Scripture is simply written revelation. Therefore, Christians cannot omit certain parts of the Bible or ignore certain instructions as if they were not relevant to their lives.

**DAY 1 – It is able to make you wise**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *2 Timothy 1:3-8 and 2 Timothy 3:14-15*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Who are the examples that you follow in life to make you spiritual wise? To whom are you examples of spiritual wisdom?

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2. Whose examples did Timothy followed and how did it give him spiritual wisdom?

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**Prayer**



## DAY 2 – It is God breathed

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 2:10 and 2 Peter 1:21*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Has the idea of the Scriptures being “God-breathed” or “inspired” by God been demonstrated in your own understanding as you read them?

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2. Because “all” Scripture are inspired by God, how ought you to read it and apply it to your daily life?

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*The ultimate purpose of the Bible is not to inform us, it is to transform us. Rick Warren*

**Prayer**

### **DAY 3 - Is useful for teaching and rebuking**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*2 Timothy 3:14-17 and Hebrews 4:12-13*

Observations/thoughts

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1. What important Biblical doctrines about the Bible can we get from these verses? What implications do they have for you?

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2. In what ways have you observed the Bible to be specifically useful for teaching and rebuking? (Read John 8:30-37 and 2 Peter 1:3-4)

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**Prayer**

## **DAY 4 - Is good for correction and instruction**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*2 Timothy 3:14-17 and Exodus 20:1-17*

Observations/thoughts

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1. How do the Ten Commandments reveal what is most important to God? What is God teaching/correcting/rebuking/instructing you in terms of where you are on your walk with God?

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2. In what ways have you observed the Bible to be specifically useful for correction and instruction?

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**Prayer**

**DAY 5 - It equips the child of God for good work**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 2 Timothy 3:14-17 and 2 Peter 3:10-18

Observations/thoughts

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1. How has God's Word helped to equip you for the ministry God has for you to do?

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2. The purpose of God's Word is that we may mature and be thoroughly equipped for every good work. How does this inspire you to grow deeper in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ?

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**Prayer**



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



### Prayer



**Read:** *2 Timothy 3:14-17 and Hebrews 4:12-13*

### Discussion questions

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. Find all the ways the Scriptures are described in these verses. Discuss each of these attributes and the importance each of these attributes has in your walk with God.

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Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 again. The Scripture shows us four practical benefits of studying Scripture for our lives:

- Teaching (or doctrine)- showing us the way to go
- Rebuking- warning us when we're getting off track
- Correcting- helping us get back on track
- Training in Righteousness- helping us stay on track

Can you think of an example of how a passage of Scripture has benefited you in one of these ways? Discuss in the group.

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In what ways can the Bible form and govern your decision-making in the area of business, family life, friendships, sport and leisure?

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What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

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**Close in prayer**

## **Week 2 – Why can I Trust the Bible?**

MEMORY VERSE – *Psalm 33:4 - For the word of the LORD is right and true; He is faithful in all He does*

### **Introduction to this weeks' study**


People often ask, but how do we know the Bible is reliable? Has it not been changed over the years?

Firstly, as believers, we believe that it is God's Spoken Word and therefore it is reliable, and we believe the foundational truths which we are taught. Surprisingly, there is also further evidence to support this truth. In this week's study, we will look at various angles of, why we as believers can trust the Bible.

May this week's study give you a fresh appreciation, a renewed zeal to read and study God's Word and a desire to live God's Word.

## **DAY 1 – It is historically Accurate**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *Psalm 33:4 and Psalm 12:6*

Observations/thoughts

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1. God took great care to preserve his words and protect the Bible from eradication. Why do these passages make you feel confident about the trustworthiness of the Bible?

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2. Read Luke 1:1-4. Why did Luke write down the historical record of his book?

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**Prayer**



**DAY 2 – It is prophetically and thematically accurate**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*Isaiah 7:15, Luke 2 and Matthew 26:56*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Isaiah was written 750 before Christ, how would you explain to someone that these prophecies prove that Christ and the Bible is true?

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2. How can the purity and accuracy of the Bible improve your relationship with God?

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**Prayer**

### **DAY 3 - All Scripture is in unity with the central message of love**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *Ruth 4:13-17, 1 Kings 9:5 and Matthew 1:5-6*

Observations/thoughts

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1. In what way do these passages relate to one another and therefore establish the unity of the Scripture?

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2. Read John 5:39. Why is it important for us to know that the Bible's message is unified?

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**Prayer**

**DAY 4 – It is confirmed by Jesus and survived history**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 Matthew 5:18, Matthew 24:34-35 and 1 Peter 1:24-25

Observations/thoughts

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1. In what ways are you living your life based on the fact that God’s Word is confirmed by Jesus and it is true?

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2. Knowing the care God put into protecting the Bible and maintaining its message, how can this truth motivate you to expand your Biblical knowledge?

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**Prayer**

## **DAY 5 – It has transforming power**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *John 8:31-32, Colossians 3:16, Romans 12-1-2*

Observations/thoughts

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1. In what ways does the Word of God transform our minds and lives. How do we know God's will?

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2. What can you do to trust and obey God's Word more?

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**Prayer**



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



### Prayer



**Read:** *Psalm 33:4, Matthew 5:18 and Jeremiah 17:7-8*

### Discussion questions

How does a person's daily life look when they trust God's Word and God fully?

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In what areas of your life are you struggling to trust God fully? Share with the group.

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Read Jeremiah 17:7-8. Describe the benefits of trusting in God?

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We have seen the transforming power of Scripture. Share how obeying a passage of Scripture has encouraged you to trust God more in other areas of your life.

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**Close in prayer**

## **Week 3 - Building My Life On the Bible**



MEMORY VERSE - *James 1:19-21* - *Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you."*

### **Introduction to this weeks' study**

God gave us different senses. Everything we know and everything we experience in life comes through one of those senses. That's how you encounter life. We need to use all the senses we have to empower ourselves to be Bible-reading and Bible-listening, followers of Jesus.

Knowing God and witnessing for Him involves using all our senses. He created them and intendeds for us to use them in his service. Do not take them for granted! Engaging God with all your senses can be a valuable tool in our praise, worship, and in our witness to others!

## DAY 1 - Receive it with your ears

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:



*James 1:19-21 and Romans 10:17*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Take a few minutes and ask God prayerfully to teach you to listen. (Keep quiet for a few minutes.) What is the difference between hearing and listening?

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2. Why do you think James said: *“be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry?”* What is the link between anger and quick to speak and hearing (listening)?

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**Prayer**



## DAY 2 - Read it with your eyes

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*James 1:19-25 and Matthew 6:22*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Write down all the “action” words in this passage. How can you use these actions to study the Bible in more depth?

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2. Do you see the world through God’s eyes and the path He wants you to follow? Are there any “blind spots” in your spiritual vision you need to remove?

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**Prayer**

### **DAY 3 - Research it with your hands and mouth**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*John 5:36-40 and Acts 17:11*

Observations/thoughts

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1. What do you think, is there a difference between Bible reading and Bible study? If so, write down the difference.

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2. In both John 5:39 and Acts 17:11, we read that the people “*search/examined/diligently study*” the Scripture. How do you “search” the Bible? Do you take notes? (Keeping a journal might be a good idea.)

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**Prayer**

## **DAY 4 - Review and remember it with your mind**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *James 1:25 and Joshua 1:8*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Write Joshua 1:8 in your own words. What do you think God wants to teach you through this vers?

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2. What do you think the promise in Joshua 1:8 means - *“Then you will be prosperous and successful?”*

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**Prayer**

## DAY 5 - Respond to it with your actions

Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:

 James 1:22 and Matthew 7:24-27

Observations/thoughts

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1. What do you think James meant by saying “*deceive yourselves?*” How do you deceive yourselves?

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2. According to Matthew 7:24-27, what is the “foundation?” What is the rock? And the sand? On what foundation are you building your spiritual house?

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**Prayer**



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



### Prayer



**Read:** *James 1:19-25 and Matthew 7:24-27*

### Discussion questions

Identify the keywords in James 1:19-25. Discuss how these words can help you to build your spiritual foundation on bedrock.

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Share with the group what your relationship with the Bible is. Discuss together how we must make changes to do more in depth Bible study and to actually put that knowledge into practise.

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How do you understand building your life upon the foundation of Jesus protect you in life's storms?

What are the things that distract us from digging deeper and founding our lives upon bedrock?

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How does having a good foundation in Christ look like and act like?

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**Close in prayer**

## **Week 4 – How the Bible changes us**




MEMORY VERSE - *Hebrews 4:12* — *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

### **Introduction to this weeks' study**

Because the Bible is God's Spoken Word and because God is powerful, His Words have transforming power. Abraham's life changed through the promises of God. Moses was empowered to lead a nation by God's Word. David repented when He heard God's Word. The disciples followed Jesus and obeyed His Word. The woman at the well received living water and eternal life when she believed God's Word. Still, today, God speaks, through His Word which is taught to us by the Holy Spirit and it has the power to transform our lives according to God's will. In this week's study, we will see how the Word of God, the Bible, changes us.

## **DAY 1 – The Word’s Power to change us**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *Hebrews 4:12-13*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Describe the characteristics of God’s Word according to Hebrews 4:12 in your own words.

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2. Reflect on each characteristic and note in what ways has each one been experienced in your life.

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**Prayer**



## DAY 2 – The Word recreates us

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *1 Peter 1:3, 23, James 1:18 and 2 Timothy 3:15*

Observations/thoughts

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1. What is the role of the Word in these passages?

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2. Identify the stage in your life where you have come to the point receiving this new life. If you are unsure, speak to one of the leaders in the church.

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**Prayer**

### **DAY 3 - The Word activates faith**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*Romans 10:17 and 1 Thessalonians 2:13*

Observations/thoughts

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1. What is the key to activating a deeper faith?

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2. What practical things can you do to allow the Word of God to dwell in you richly so that more faith is activated?

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**Prayer**

## **DAY 4 – The Word illuminates my mind**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*Psalm 119:130, Psalm 119:105 and Romans 12:1-2*

Observations/thoughts

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1. In what way does the Word affect us in each of these passages?

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2. Why is it hard for you to do God's will? Ask God to change your mind and align your actions with His Word.

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**Prayer**

## **DAY 5 – Allow God to change you through His Word**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *Mark 12:24, 1 Thessalonians 2:13 and John 13:17*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Identify the main principle regarding the Word in each passage.

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2. List 1 step you will take for each of the principles found from the above passage in which you will commit to learn, accept, and act?

I commit to learn God's Word by:

I commit to accept God's Word by:

I commit to act on God's Word by:

**Prayer**



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



### Prayer



*Read: Hebrews 4:12-13, Romans 10:17 and Psalms 119:1-16*

### Discussion questions

Read Hebrews 4:12 again. Discuss the characteristics of God's Word. What impact each of these characteristics has on a believer's life?

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Share how Romans 10:17 has and continues to become a reality in your life.

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Read Psalm 119:1-16. What are the virtues which we should learn to pursue regarding God's Word? (List 7-10)



## **Week 5 - Seeing what God wants me to see**



MEMORY VERSES - *John 14:26 - The Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

*John 14:17 (NLT) - He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth*


*John 16:15 - the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you*

### **Introduction to this weeks' study**

What a privilege we have, that the Holy Spirit has been sent to support us in our walk with God! This promise is for all who are near and far from the Lord if we appeal to Him. Be bold to ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word and His will to you this week in a greater way.

**DAY 1 – Begin a relationship with God**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *1 Corinthians 2:14 and John 3:3*

Observations/thoughts

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1. What does spiritual discernment mean in your context? Identify some details here.

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2. If one cannot 'see' the things of God, does this mean you are not born again in this area? What can you do about this?

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**Prayer**



## **DAY 2 – Ask God in faith to open my eyes**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*Psalm 119:18, James 1:5-6 and Matthew 7: 7*

1. Ask God to open your eyes to see His wonderful ways. What do you see?

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2. Next, ask God boldly to give you wisdom in an area of your life without predetermining what you expect. Write down what you experienced.

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3. What can you ask from God; for yourself; ask help from someone else to walk closer to God today?

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**Prayer**

### **DAY 3 - Come with a humble attitude**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*Psalm 25:9 and Proverbs 3:5-6*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Pray about your past few days/weeks. Is there something you could humbly change?

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2. Consider a big challenge you're facing. Forget your understanding for a moment and ask God to show you His understanding. What's that look like?

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**Prayer**

## **DAY 4 – Cleanse my heart from sin and conflict**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*Matthew 5:8 and 1 John 2:11*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Write down a recent moment where you feel your heart was not 'pure' in your dealings. What did that cause?

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2. Does hatred/anger with another person really cause blindness? Bring this situation before God and ask Him to open your eyes to greater truth again.

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**Prayer**

**DAY 5 – Commit in advance to do what God says**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*Psalm 119:33-34 and James 1:22*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Our sinful nature rebels against God’s laws. How can you commit to being obedient to God in one aspect of your life?

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2. Why do you think people prefer to tell others what to do rather than focus on the right things themselves? How can you improve on this?

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**Prayer**



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



### Prayer



**Read:** *Matthew 7:7-12, 1 John 2:7-11 and Psalm 25:8-10*

### Discussion questions

What can you do about the areas you struggle to follow or be obedient to God?

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How does this passage challenge our assumptions about what God desires for us? How can we trust in God's goodness even when we don't understand what He is doing?

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Why does pride close our eyes to God's will? Give an example.

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What areas are challenging for you to commit to God, seek assistance or pray about?

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**Close in prayer**

## **Week 6 – Study the Bible with your heart and mind**



MEMORY VERSE – *Psalm 1:1-2 - Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.*


### **Introduction to this weeks' study**

Our prayer as leaders is that you will know God through His Word, that you will trust God's Word and live a life of dependency, relying on God to do His work in you. For this reason, as a believer, I must actively engage with God's Word daily so that I may allow it to cut through my beliefs, my actions, my speech, transforming my heart, my mind. And I will bear fruit in the way I live.

This week's lesson focuses on practical skills to engage in God's Word so that it saturates your life and enables you to walk in the Spirit in obedience.

**DAY 1 – Read with a hunger and thirst for God**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *Psalm 63:1-8 and Psalm 1:1-3*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Describe the deep desires of the Psalmists heart.

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2. Which of these desires do you long for? Plead with God that He would give you a desire for Him through His Word.

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**Prayer**



## DAY 2 – Read to know God more

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *Ephesians 3:16-19, 1 Peter 2:1-3 and 2 Peter 1:3-11*

Observations/thoughts

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1. What is the aim of Paul's prayer? Note, this is achieved through growing in the knowledge of God through the Bible.

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2. Why is it important in 2 Peter 1:3-11 that we grow in grace and the knowledge of God?

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**Prayer**

### **DAY 3 - Read the Word to know God's will**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*Isaiah 55 and Psalm 119:11*

1. Why is it important to remember God's Word, see Isaiah 55:11 and Psalm 119:11?

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2. Reread the above passages, then use this framework to allow God's scripture to speak to you.


- **S** - Is there a **sin** to confess?
- **P** - Is there a **promise** to claim?
- **A** - Is there an **attitude** to change?
- **C** - Is there a **command** to obey?
- **E** - Is there an **example** to follow?
- **P** - Is there a **prayer** to pray?
- **E** - Is there an **error** to avoid?
- **T** - Is there a **truth** to believe?
- **S** - Is there **something** to praise God for?

This framework can be used when reading Scripture daily to allow God to speak to you through His Word and to know His will.

### **Prayer**

## DAY 4 – Read the Word to act in faith

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *James 1:22-25, James 2:14 and Ephesians 2:10*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Why is it important to you personally to grow in the knowledge of God?

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2. Describe how careful study of God's Word has impacted your life.

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**Prayer**

## DAY 5 – Study other verses

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 2:15-16, John 17:17, James 1:18*

Observations/thoughts

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1. What is the main link and theme throughout all these passages?

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2. Re-read the passages and write down a summary of what the passages are saying collectively about the Word of God.

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**Prayer**



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



### Prayer



*Read: Ephesians 3:14-21, Romans 10:17 and Psalm 119:33-40*

### Discussion questions

Discuss the characteristics of God's Word from Hebrews 4:12 and what the impact looks like in a believer's life.

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Share how Romans 10:17 has and continues to become a reality in your life.

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Read Psalm 119:33-40. What is the main idea in this passage? Discuss as a group other verses or passages which also refer to the main ideas in the passage. Why is it important to refer to other passages when studying the Bible?

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In what ways does focusing on and studying God's Word motivate us to live the life described in the above passages?

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**Close in prayer**

# **Week 7 - Understanding the Meaning of a Text**



MEMORY VERSE – *John 15:11-12 - I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

## **Introduction to this weeks' study**

Long before you ask what a verse or passage of Scripture means to you, you need to ask the question, what did it mean to the people God was talking to then? We are living in the twenty-first century, they lived at a different time. Our background is different, our language, worldview, customs, food, art and culture are different. Therefore, we are called to carefully investigate the Biblical texts and try to understand the circumstances under which these texts were written. By attempting to overcome these barriers of time, language, and culture, we believe that we can come close to the Biblical text and apply it to our situation today.





## DAY 2 - Define the keywords

*Read the passage again*



*John 15:1-8*

To get the right meaning of a Bible verse, you must make sure that you understand what the words mean, not what you think it means. Just because it means something to you, it doesn't mean it means that in the Bible.

Which words are repeated?

What does it mean here, in general, to you and particular to your spiritual life?

Write down a few of the keywords and its meaning.

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**Prayer**

### DAY 3 - Interpret unclear verses with clear ones

Read the following passage a few times.

 John 15:9-17

Sometimes a verse is difficult to understand or seems unclear. Search surrounding verses to see if you can find a clear verse that would help you to understand a particular verse.

Read John 15:9-17 again. Are there any unclear words or concepts in this passage? Write them down. Look in surrounding verses to help you to interpret them better, or for other Bible passages to help you understand these words or concepts.

1. Think of the concept of *loving each other as Jesus loved us*. What does it mean? How are you to do that? Is it always possible?

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2. Think of the word *bearing fruit*. What does it mean? What does it look like? Try to look at the surrounding passages to try to understand it better.

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## **Prayer**

## **DAY 4 - Look for the most obvious meaning**

*Read the following passage a few times*



*John 15:18-26*

The purpose of the Bible is to reveal God. God gave us His Word to tell us what He's like. You don't need to have a degree in theology to understand the simple words of the Bible. There is no secret code. The Bible is straight and right up front. For centuries God spoke to his body, the church, through the Bible. If you read the Bible and suddenly come up with a different meaning, it is most probably wrong and not true.

- Read John 15:18-26. Place emphasis on important words.
- Paraphrase the verses, by putting it into your own words.
- What is the main purpose of this passage?
- What commands are there?
- What promises are there?

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**Prayer**

## DAY 5 - Application

Read the following passage a few times

 John 14:18-21

1. Consider the historical context. Ask questions like, where, when, who, whom, and why. What did it mean to the first hearers? Try to imagine the reactions of Jesus' disciples.

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2. Define the keywords and write them down, with their meaning. Are there difficult-to-understand words? Write them down.

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3. Interpret unclear verses with clear ones. Read surrounding verses. Write down any unclear words or concepts.

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4. Look for the most obvious meaning of words. There are now secret codes. Write the passage over in your own words. What is the main purpose of this passage? What commands are there? What promises are there?

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### **Prayer**



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



### Prayer



**Read:** *John 15:1-17*

### Discussion questions

Consider the historical context. Ask questions like, where, when, who, whom, and why. What did it mean to the first hearers?

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Define the keywords and write them down, with their meaning. Are there difficult-to-understand words? Write them down.

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Are there any unclear verses? Interpret unclear verses with clear ones. Read surrounding verses. Write down any unclear words or concepts.

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Read John 15:1-5. Look for the most obvious meaning of words. Write the passage over in your own words. What is the main purpose of this passage? What commands are there? What promises are there?

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**Close in prayer**



## **Week 8 – Integrating God’s word in my life**



MEMORY VERSE - *John 14: 23 - Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.*

### **Introduction to this weeks’ study**

It is easier to only attend church than to bring the church into your personal life, wouldn’t you agree? Though you may think we are talking about the physical building, we actually mean the principle of the Kingdom of Heaven. Think of when you have had someone visit you for an extended period. Hosting them requires you to make adjustments, some drastic and some minor. In the same way, when we ask for God to be King of our lives, we need to make adjustments throughout our whole lives to match what God says is best for us. What a privilege we have to discover this, even if we need to move or get rid of some ‘old furniture’

## DAY 1 – Build on it

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*Matthew 7:24 and Psalm 119:20*

Observations/thoughts

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1. What does the world say is the right way to build your life? Think of one area that needs to change back to God's ways.

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2. Reflect on what the benefits could be if you honour God by doing something His way instead of your way. What do you need to do to improve in this area?

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**Prayer**

## DAY 2 – Feed on it

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*Colossians 3:16 and Psalm 23*

1. How much of God's Word are you 'feeding on' through your senses? How can you develop an appetite for God's Word?

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2. Think about what is happening in your life at the moment. Where do you need to partake in God's peace more?

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3. What areas feel too tough for you at the moment? What would life look like on the other side of this challenge?

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## Prayer

### **DAY 3 - Live by it**

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*Psalm 119:11 and James 1:8*

1. Check in with your heart now. What do you feel going on inside of you?

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2. In that deep area of challenge/expectation/celebration, is the Word of God dwelling there?

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3. What do you believe God wants to settle inside your heart right now? Write it down.

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### **Prayer**

## DAY 4 – Grow through it

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*



*Psalm 119:18 and Luke 8:4-15*

Observations/thoughts

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1. Are you seeing wonderful things around you or does God need to open your eyes to His Word?

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2. Which one of the four soil types dominate your thinking currently? What do you need to believe about God to be more of a fertile soil for His Word?

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**Prayer**

## DAY 5 – Act on it

*Read the following Scriptures several times, observe the circumstances, write down your thoughts and apply the truths to your life:*

 *James 1:22 and Psalm 119:105*

Observations/thoughts

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1. What is paralysing you to step out in more faith?  
What truth would the Holy Spirit tell you now?

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2. Picture a dark situation that God wants you to walk with His word of light. What Scripture would be perfect for your situation right now? Why?

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**Prayer**



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



### Prayer



**Read:** *Matthew 7:24-27, Psalm 119:105 and Luke 8:4-15*

### Discussion questions

What does it look like when someone builds their life on Godly foundations? How does this impact other people around them?

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What is the difference between walking in the light of God's Word and darkness? Discuss instances this has happened in your life or give an example.

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What does this parable (Luke 8:4-15) teach us about the different ways people respond to the Word of God?

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Have you ever experienced any of these different types of soil in your own life? If so, which ones, and how did you respond? What can we do to cultivate "good soil" in our own hearts, so that we can receive and bear fruit from the Word of God?

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**Close in prayer**



## **Resources**

The study made use, with permission, of the *40 days in the Word* programme of Saddle Back Church, Lake Forrest, California.



DEO GLORIA




Glorify God -  
Making God's glory known

COMMUNITY




Creating community -  
Serving the community

CHURCH



A loving family of God  
in Rockingham

WORD-BASED



The Bible is the  
foundation of truth

CHRIST-CENTRED



Jesus is the centre  
of our faith

SPIRIT INSPIRED



God's Spirit inspires us  
to live and proclaim  
His truth

DISCIPLE-MAKING



Journeyming together,  
following Jesus in obedience