
Basic Disciplines for Believers

What is a *disciple*? a *discipline*? Matt 28:20 “teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you”

Discipline #1: BIBLE SATURATION – I am filling myself with God’s Word (Be a Sponge!)

1. **Bible Reading** – Familiarization – Knowing What the Bible Says (**Public** Reading, **Personal** Reading)
2. **Bible Feeding** – Instruction – Learning What the Bible Means
3. **Bible Treasuring** – Memorization – Saving What the Bible Says into My Heart
4. **Bible Deepening** – Meditation – Thinking About What the Bible Says
5. **Bible Keeping** – Application – Doing What the Bible Says



Memory Verse (All Ages):

Joshua 1:8 *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (Additional Memory Verses: 1 Peter 2:1-3; Psalm 1:1-3)*

Bible Reading – Familiarization – Knowing What the Bible Says

Matt 22:29 Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.”

PUBLIC BIBLE READING (reading out loud in a group setting)

Neh 8:3 the ears of all the people were [attentive] to the Book of the Law.

- **We are to pay attention with our ears.**
- **This would include being quiet, and thinking about what is being read.**

Neh 8:8 So they read distinctly from the book,...

- **We need to learn to read.**
- **We need to learn to read well.**
- **We need to learn to read clearly.**

Neh 9:1-3 ...the children of Israel were assembled... separated themselves from all foreigners... and they... confessed their sins... and ... they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law ...[for one-fourth] of the day; and [for another] fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.

- **We are to approach the Word with a clean heart**
(they separated themselves and started with confession – see 1 Peter 2:1-3)
- **We are to show respect for the Word (they stood and listened).**
- **We are to listen with the purpose of changing our minds and actions (they confessed).**
- **We are to learn about the Lord and respond to Him as He deserves (they worshiped).**

Col 4:16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

- **The Bible is intended to be read out loud when believers assemble.**
- **We are commanded to read the Bible when believers gather together.**
1 Thes 5:27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.
1 Tim 4:13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

PERSONAL READING OF THE BIBLE (Reading the Bible Daily for Myself)

1. **Personal Bible Reading Is Beneficial for Kings!**

Deut 17:18-20 “Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from [the one] before the priests, the Levites. ¹⁹ “And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, ²⁰ “that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or [to] the left, and that he may prolong [his] days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.”

- **God required a king to make his own copy of the Bible. The KING had to write a copy by hand!**
- **God required a king to have his Bible with him.**

- God required a king to read the Bible every day of his life.
- Reading the Bible every day had many benefits for the king (most that WE need):
 - **TO KNOW GOD:** The king would learn to fear the LORD his God.
 - **TO KNOW GOD'S COMMANDS:** The king would be able to careful to obey the commands of God.
 - **TO KEEP A RIGHT VIEW OF SELF:** The king would be able to keep from becoming proud.
 - **TO KEEP FROM DISOBEYING:** The king would be helped to keep from disobeying God.
 - **TO GET THE BLESSING OF GOD:** The king would be the king for a long time, and have a long kingdom.

2. Personal Bible Reading Helps Us Know the Word!

Matt 12:5 Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?

Matt 19:4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made [them] at the beginning 'made them male and female,'

Matt 21:42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

Mark 12:10 "Have you not even read this Scripture: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

Mark 12:26 "But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the [burning] bush [passage], how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?"

- Reading helps us to know what the Bible says.
- Reading helps us keep from being confused or being misled.

3. Personal Bible Reading Helps Us Four Ways!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ¹⁶ All Scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- The Bible tells us what is right (doctrine)
- The Bible tells us what is not right (reproof)
- The Bible tells us how to get right (correction)
- The Bible tells us how to stay right (instruction in righteousness)

4. Personal Bible Reading Keeps Our Hearts and Minds Right!

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God [is] living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- The Bible helps us to know what is really in our hearts.
- The Bible helps us to evaluate our thoughts rightly.

5. Personal Bible Reading Brings Blessing from God!

Rev 1:3 Blessed [is] he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

- God promises to bless those that read the Bible and keep what it says.

APPLICATIONS FOR CLASS:

- Personal daily Bible reading is important, valuable, and beneficial.
- Have you committed to daily personal Bible reading of some kind?
- Are you using a Bible reading plan (for younger, Bible story book)?

*What will you **do** with what you **learn** today?*