



380 S. Rosemead Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107

Worship Time
Sundays
945 AM
Heart
Preparation

1000 AM
WORSHIP

The Second Pillar of Discipleship Building: STUDY & DEVOTION TO GOD'S WORD

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him. "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed." John 8:31

People will know we are Christians because we abide and obey the Word of God. They will know we are His children by the fruits we bear.

Romans 15:4

Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it's written for us.

God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever He will do next.

When we say *abide in the Word of God*, we mean knowing the Word of God.

Many people argue that bible is outdated but Romans 15:4 assures us that Scripture was written for us. This tells us that the bible was written for our benefit.

The bible was written to reveal Jesus, it is in essence His-story. The central focus is Jesus, from Genesis to Revelation. So for us to understand God's will and purpose in our life, we must know who Jesus is.

Dgroup Schedules

Tuesdays
700 pm
1102 E Swanee Lane
West Covina, CA

Thursdays
730 pm
2617 N Parish Place
Burbank, CA

Fridays
700 pm
5124 Ashworth St
Lakewood, CA

Why Read the Bible?

- * We have to understand this - ALL SCRIPTURE - this means no exceptions. It doesn't come with multiple choices.
- * The bible was written by godly men who received inspiration from God. In the same way that God had breathed life into dust to create man, He breathed life into the bible.
- * The word of God is living and active, and like a two-edged sword it can divide the soul and the spirit when God judges our thoughts and the attitude of our hearts. (Hebrews 4:12)
- * The bible is God's way to lead us to the right path, it will train us in righteousness. . . And it will be used to correct and rebuke us when we stray from this path.
- * It is a written record of God's works throughout history. It provides us with the evidence to know and understand God's power, His nature and His purposes so that we will learn to confidently put our trust in Him.
- * The bible is profitable and useful. It provides us with wisdom about every department of our life. It encompasses every aspect of our life.
- * When we allow God to speak to us through His word, our lives become enriched and full because we will see His wisdom and His purpose for us.

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.

How do we respond to the word of God?

1. Read with devotion
 - Mediate on His word day and night
 - Study the word of God (2 Timothy 2:15)
2. Read with eagerness
 - We should crave for it
 - Prioritize it, look forward to spending time with God's word

Five Tips on Knowing and Understanding the Word of God

1. **HEAR** (Romans 10:17)
 - The more time we spend hearing the word of God, the more time we soak ourselves in God's word . . . The more we will understand God's message for us
2. **READ** (Revelations 1:3)
 - We must read the bible in order for us to differentiate the truth from what is false.
3. **STUDY** (Acts 17:11)
 - Search the Scriptures to find what God wants to tell us
4. **MEMORIZE** (Psalms 119:9-11)
 - It is good to memorize bible verses, so that we have a weapon to use during the times that we are being tempted.
5. **MEDITATE** (Psalm 1:2-3)
 - Meditate on the word of God day and night so that like a tree that is planted by the river, we will bring



We must always remember these about the bible:

1. the Bible is the Inspired Word of God.
2. God's Word is eternal — it has no beginning and no end.
3. Jesus is God's Word. Both the Old and New Testament point to Jesus.
4. Jesus reveals Himself to us through the Word.

The Bible was given to us not for head knowledge or for a list of promises we want fulfilled in our lives. The Word is God's way of making Himself known to us — so that we may understand His character, His nature, His heart. He tells us that if we are His disciples, we must abide in Him. Abiding in Him, being in His presence, entails that we should know Him. **Know Him though His word.** It is not enough to build a relationship on a mere encounter, in order for us to pursue intimacy with God, we must also spend time knowing and understanding His word. . . But it doesn't stop there. After we understand and acknowledge God's selfless and unconditional love for us and we reciprocate that love by making God number one in our hearts, in our minds and our souls. . . Our understanding and knowledge of His word should translate into our lives. This translation equals OBEDIENCE. We should obey His commandments. Allow His word to train us and lead us to the path of righteousness. . . . To make that choice to be set apart from the world, to be distinguished for His glory . . . It is only when we surrender in obedience to God's will for our lives that we will find rested-ness in His presence.

Discussion:

1. Do you have a favorite bible verse? What is this verse and why is it special to you?
2. What is your attitude towards the Word of God? Are you excited, eager, craving for it, indifferent . . . Be specific
3. What do you intend to do to improve your devotion to God's word?
4. Have you had any experiences that God spoke to you through His word?

Works

Quality Time with God's Word

Commit to spend time in reading and meditating God's word. During your meditation, find one verse that speaks strongly to you. Write down this verse in your journal, or in an index card and place it where you can see it. In your journal answer these questions:

Verse:

1. Why does the verse speak to me?
2. What is God's message to me in this verse? What is He asking me to do?
3. How can I live out this verse in my life in obedience to God's bidding?

Life Check:

Are we bearing fruits as Christians? Do people look at our lives and see Jesus' love? Do they know that we are His disciples by the fruits of our lives?

Let us commit to pray for one another as we take on the challenge to study and devote ourselves to God's word in obedience to His commandments, because we want to please Him. . . Because we want to love Him above all else.

Friendship with a Vision

- * Pursuing intimacy with God delights God. And when God is delighted with us, we will experience His presence in our life.
- * In His presence, we are protected and provided for thus making us distinguished. Setting us apart for His purpose.
- * His purpose for us is Relationship. A relationship with Him and a relationship with others who also have been distinguished and set apart. This is Friendship with a Vision.
- * DISCIPLESHIP is our marching order. To be discipled and to disciple.
- * Discipleship is the process of bringing people to Jesus Christ (**BELIEVE**) and building them up (**GROW**) in the faith towards Christ-likeness (**DISCIPLE**), for the purpose of spiritual multiplication (**MULTIPLY**) resulting in the glory of God.

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

4 Pillars towards Christ-likeness

1. Supreme love for God (Matthew 10:37-40)
2. Study and Devotion to God's Word (John 8:31)
3. Denial of Self towards God and towards man (Mark 8:34)
4. Reflection of Christ-like love towards others (Matthew 22:39)

SUPREME LOVE OF GOD

- * Matt 22:37 commands us to "Love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind"
- * God's love language is OBEDIENCE.
- * Supreme love of God is about pleasing God. To please God we must obey Him in everything.
- * God's love for us is selfless and unconditional. He knows our sins will condemn and destroy us so He sent us a Savior, His only son Jesus — so that we can be freed from the bondage of sin.
- * The only thing He wants from us is for us to love Him. To obey His commandments. To surrender our lives to His will.

STUDY & DEVOTION TO GOD'S WORD

- * Jn 8:31 tells us that for us to become Jesus' disciples, we must abide in Him
- * The Bible is God's love letter to us. It gives us an understanding of His nature, His character and His love. It also tells us what He requires from us so that we can please Him.
- * When we study and live out the Word of God in our lives in OBEDIENCE to His commands, we are pleasing God.