

Bible Study

To be a growing disciple of Jesus, God's Word must be a _____. Jesus called it "abiding." He said, "*If you abide in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine.*" (John 8:31). In day-to-day living, abiding in God's Word includes three activities.

No Spiritual discipline is more important than the intake of God's Word. The eternally essential information found in the Bible can be found nowhere else. Therefore if we are to know God and be godly, we must abide in His Word.

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

1. Accepting Biblical Authority

The Bible must become the authoritative _____ for your life. Solomon reminds us, "*Every word of God is flawless,*" (Proverbs 30:5) and Paul explains, "*Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live*" (2 Timothy 3:16).

2. Assimilating Biblical Truth

It is not enough just to believe the Bible; you must fill your mind with it so the Holy Spirit can transform you with the truth. There are five ways to do this:

- A. _____ God's Word when you listen and accept it with an open, receptive attitude. The easiest step related to assimilating God's Word is simply hearing it. One of the most often repeated phrases by Jesus was, "*He who has ears, let him hear.*" (Matthew 11:15). The problem with depending only on hearing God's Word is that after _____ days we forget _____% of what we heard.

- B. _____ the Bible. If you give approximately _____ minutes a day to reading the Bible, you will read through the entire Bible in a year (52 hours to read the Old Testament and 18 hours to read the New Testament). No one is changed by an unopened Bible. A survey conducted by the Barna Research Group among those claiming to be born-again Christians disclosed these statistics: _____% read the Bible every day and _____% say they never read the Bible
- C. _____ or studying the Bible. The difference between reading and studying the Bible involves two additional activities: asking questions of the text and writing down your insights. *“The Jews received Paul’s message with enthusiasm and met with him daily, examining the Scriptures to see if they supported what he said.”* (Acts 17:11b)
- D. _____ God’s Word. Many Christians look at memorizing God’s Word as something close to modern-day martyrdom. David reveals why he memorized Scripture, *“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”* (Psalm 119:11)
- E. _____ on God’s Word. Meditation is simply focused thinking. You select a verse and reflect on it over and over in your mind.

3. Applying Biblical Principles

Receiving, reading, researching, remembering, and reflecting on the Word are all useless if we fail to put them into practice. We must become *“doers of the word.”* (James 1:22). The best way to apply Biblical principles is to write out an action step as a result of what you learned from God’s Word. Write down what you intend to do. Every application will involve your relationship with God, your relationship with others, or your personal character.

Prayer

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” (Luke 11:1)

Praying Like Jesus Prayed

First, Jesus taught them how not to pray.

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. (Matthew 6:5)

Next, Jesus taught them how to pray.

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (Matthew 6:6-8)

1. Pray _____
2. Pray _____
3. Pray _____
4. Pray _____

Then, Jesus gave them a model prayer

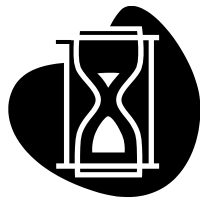
This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matthew 6:9-15)

Six Parts and a Pattern for Prayer

1. _____: Begin by expressing your love to God

2. _____: Commit yourself to God's purpose
3. _____: Ask God to provide for your needs
4. _____: Ask God to forgive your sins
5. _____: Pray for others
6. _____: Ask for spiritual protection

duration confession thanksgiving application



Time with God

A quiet time is a daily time you set aside to be alone with God to get to know Him through the Bible and prayer. The purpose is not to study about Jesus, but to actually spend time with Jesus.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. (Mark 1:35)

After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. (Matthew 14:23)

Suggestions on Starting Your Quiet Time

1. Make a personal quiet time the top priority of your day.

2. Select a time to spend with God that fits your schedule. Usually, in the morning is preferable, but you may want or need to choose another time. The best time for me is _____.
3. Select a place where you can be alone. The best place for my quiet time is _____.
4. Gather materials, such as your Bible, notebook, and a pen or pencil, and put them in the place selected so that you will not waste time.
5. Develop a balanced _____ of Bible reading and prayer.
6. Focus on the _____ you are spending time with.
7. Be _____ until you are consistent

15 minutes with God

A Sample Plan to Get You Started

1. Relax (1 minute). Be still, slow down, and prepare your heart.
2. Read (4 minutes). Begin reading where you left off the day before.
3. Reflect on what you read (4 minutes).
4. Record your thoughts (2 minutes).
5. Request (4 minutes). Conclude your quiet time by talking to God.

Answer Key

2-1	Top priority Standard Receiving 3, 90
2-2	Reading, 15, 18, 23 Researching Remembering reflecting
2-3	Regularly Privately Sincerely specifically
2-4	praise purpose provision pardon people protection
2-5	Plan Person persistent