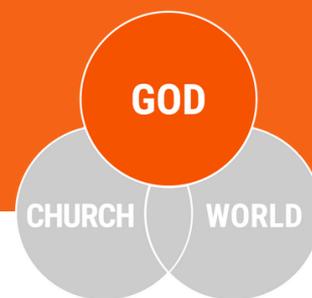


SCRIPTURE

I align my life with the full story of the Bible.



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

The Bible is not a disconnected set of accounts, texts or stories. It is one story. It is God's story. And the purpose and focus of that story is Jesus. Jesus shares this truth with two of his disciples, after the resurrection, as he walks on a road to a town called Emmaus. "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." Luke 24:27 As we read the Bible, we need to keep Jesus as our purpose and focus as well.

In addition to being centered on Jesus, the Bible is the inspired word of God. It is completely true in all it affirms and without error as originally written. It also is sufficient and authoritative for our faith and our life. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says this, "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." As scripture equips us for every good work, we as disciples should allow our lives to be directed by it. It isn't enough to simply access scripture and read it. It isn't enough to even memorize scripture. A disciple must also apply scripture to their life and follow what it says.

WHAT'S OUR PART?

There is a tendency to try and define the word "regularly" and assign a time frequency for that definition. Should we read our Bible daily? How many times a day? How long of a time for each of those readings? As soon as we begin to ask these kind of questions, we face the temptation of reducing the Bible to a check list item for us to complete. That's not the point of reading the Bible. The Bible is God's word. We read the Bible to learn about God, to hear what he has to say and to grow in our relationship with him. The point of reading the Bible regularly is to create a rhythm of ongoing interaction with God and his word. And as we find ourselves in that rhythm, we are to intentionally allow the Bible to direct our life. Gospel transformation is always the intent of our Bible reading. Perhaps, the question should not be "how often do we need to read the Bible?" Perhaps, the question should be, "How should we read the Bible?" We propose asking five questions as you read the Bible.

- What is the passage about?
- What does it teach us about God?
- What does it teach us about people?
- Where does the passage fit in the flow of redemptive history – what comes before and after?
- How does the passage point us / lead us to Jesus?



PROCESS

Think through what you have learned and summarize it on your own words or write out how you would explain it to another person.

PRAY

- Pray that God grows your desire for reading the Bible. Pray that you are able to understand what he is trying to teach you through his word.

LOOK

- Look for opportunities for a regular rhythm of reading the Bible. What works best for you? Early in the morning? Late in the evening? During your lunch break? Maybe you want to listen on your phone's Bible app on your drive home. Maybe you have a special chair picked out at home. The point is to find a rhythm that allows you to enjoy your time in the Bible.

RESPOND

- Again, the whole point of the Bible is gospel transformation. Identify one way that the Bible is calling you to be more like Jesus this week. And then go and lean into what the Bible is saying and allow it to direct you.