



SCRIPTURE: LEARNING ABOUT GOD

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.

Hebrews 4:12

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

The Bible is the written revelation of God. The written word of God points us to the living Word, Jesus. In *Simply Christian*, N. T. Wright states , “Picking it up, you need to remind yourself that you hold in your hands not only the most famous book in the world, but one which has extraordinary power to change lives, to change communities, to change the world. It’s done it before. It can do it again.”

The psalmist wrote, “I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word” (Psalm 119:15-16). What would it look like for you to be able to echo the psalmist when he writes, “I will not neglect your word?”

Worshippers of God and followers of Jesus have long recognized the value of embracing a regular rhythm of engaging the Scriptures. Not only do we believe that you will come to know God more fully, but we also believe the Scriptures can form us and transform us.

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The goal of engaging scripture is not to know the Bible more, but to know Jesus more. The goal of engaging scripture is not to prove that we can be a good person, but to be a transformed person.

TIPS FOR SCRIPTURE READING

1. Being With God Is the Point

Intimacy with God is the goal, not checking it off a to-do list that you read the Bible today.

2. Quality and Quantity are Different

The point is to spend quality time with God in his Word. Do not be legalistic about the quantity of your reading. Maybe reading a few verses, one chapter, or several chapters is what will work for you. There is a QR code in the resource section that will take you to some reading plans.

3. It's Not About You

Quality time with a person is not always about what you get out of it. So often I hear Christians talk about not getting anything out of their reading. Maybe that is the wrong motive. Maybe we can read God's Word—all of it, not just our favorite parts—even when we are not “getting anything from it” and honor Him by simply offering our worship.

4. Make Consistency A Goal

Consistency and regularity are the goal. Again, do not be legalistic about reading every day of the week. Simply set a regular time to be with God and seek to be consistent. If you miss a day, do not get hung up on it. Simply get back on track.

5. Questions Are Normal and Good

The Bible was written several thousand years ago in a different language, in a different culture, to a different people group, living in a different land. There are going to be things you will not understand. Allow your questions to drive you closer to God by seeking understanding. Learn to embrace mystery and accept those things you can't understand.