

A Toolkit for Christian Living
Faithful and Fruitful Bible Reading: Pt. 1 – Know the Author

These notes are to be used in conjunction with the sermon series during the service or with the recording. They are intended to assist with further individual or group study.

Psalm 119:1-8,89-96; 1 Corinthians 2:2-14; 2 Peter 1:13-21, Matthew 15:1-9

Opening Questions for Reflection

If someone asked you: “*What is the Bible?*” How would you answer?
Has today’s message changed how you would describe the Bible?

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Do you read the Bible regularly? Why, or why not?
What part(s) of the Bible do you find most encouraging? Why?
What part(s) of the Bible do you find most challenging? Why?
What part(s) of the Bible do you struggle to understand? Why?

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What does it mean to read the Bible in a faithful way?
What does it mean to read the Bible in a fruitful way?

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The Inspiration of Scripture (2 Peter 1)

Paul wrote: “*all Scripture is God breathed*” What does this mean?

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How would you defend the reliability of the biblical witness?
How does Peter defend the witness of the Apostles and Prophets?

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The Illumination of Scripture (1 Corinthians 2)

How does a person discern truth about God and believe in Christ?
What is the hidden and glorious mystery Paul referred to in vs. 7?

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Practical Application (Pray, Read, Ask Questions, Make Notes)

In the next week, give yourself a little bit of extra time to read the Bible and follow the steps that were outlined and demonstrated in the sermon:

(1) **Pray**, (2) **Read**, (3) **Ask Questions**, (4) **Make Notes**.

Example Prayer and Questions:

“Heavenly Father, thank you for revealing yourself to us. Help me come in humility and give me your Spirit of wisdom so that I can understand what I am reading in your Word and grow to know you and love you more deeply. Help me to trust in your Son Jesus and give me grace to live a life of loving obedience that brings you the glory that you deserve.”

- What does this passage reveal about God’s nature?
- What does this passage reveal about human nature?
- Does this passage highlight a sin that I need to repent of?
- Are there commands in this passage that I need to obey?
- Are there promises that I need to remember and believe?
- How does this passage point me to Christ and the Gospel?

If you are not reading the Bible already, start by choosing one of the four Gospels (I would recommend *The Gospel According to John*) or one of the shorter Epistles in the New Testament (*Galatians, Ephesians, or Colossians*) and begin reading it every day in small sections. At first it is better to read less and reflect on it more, than to read more and reflect less.

Be sure to make notes as you go along and then follow up on your questions in your Small Group, with Church Members, or with Church Leadership. You can make notes below.

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