

Sermon Series: "THE BIBLE-Handwriting of God"

Message Summary: The Bible is God's Word to us. It's His message of love and forgiveness, and shows us how we can have eternal life and enjoy life's journey with God. It can also answer questions you have as you strive to live a life that pleases Him. That's why Christians should try to read the Bible daily. Knowing the Word is knowing God.

HOW DO I READ THIS BIBLE?

2 Timothy 2:15

2 Timothy 2:15 – "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Quick read Review:

- Bible is the inspired Word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16
- Bible is a alive and active Word. Hebrews 4:12
- Bible has answers. Psalm 119:105

3 PREREQUISITES TO READING THE WORD:

1. Jesus Christ must be your personal Savior.

John 6:63

John 6:63 – "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."

2. Come to the Bible prayerfully and expectantly.

James 1:5-8

James 1:5-8 – "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with o doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

3. Have a hunger to know Jesus like He really is.

1 Corinthians 2:9-14

1 Corinthians 2:9-14 – “But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

4. Reading the Bible

First, read one chapter (or 12 minutes daily) from the Gospel of John each day. This will help you understand the basics of the Gospel. (Books of the Bible are typically listed in the front of the Bible.)

Second, read Acts, the exciting story of how Jesus Christ’s first disciples told others about how He died and rose again.

Third, read the letters that Christ’s apostles wrote to His first followers—all who were new in their faith. These letters are the book of Romans through the book of 3 John.

Fourth, go back and read one of the other three gospels: Matthew, Mark or Luke.

You might not understand everything you read in the Bible, but don’t let that discourage you. The Bible tells us what God is like and offers us wisdom. As you read it, ask yourself:

- What is God saying to me in this passage?
- How can I apply this to my own life?

LifeGroup QUESTIONS:

BEGIN IT – (5min)

OPEN IT- (10min) How do we know that the events we read about in American history books really happened?

EXPLORE IT (60min) – Take time to review Sunday's sermon outline stopping at each point to allow questions and contributing thoughts from the group. Now answer:

1. Why is it important to know that our faith is grounded in Biblical truth?
2. Describe a time that God's Word spoke clearly to your situation.
3. Why is it easy for us to forget truths that are important to us?
4. What portion of Scripture have you neglected lately in your life?
5. In your opinion, how often should a person spend reading the Bible?

APPLY IT- (15min) How do you need to change your Bible study habits in light of Scripture's importance? Pray as a group for an increase hunger for God's Word.