

Discipleship #9

Accountability

Since we last met...

1. Have you involved yourself in any activity which is disobedient to God?
2. Have you faithfully maintained your personal walk with God?
- 3.
- 4.

Solo Time With God

From your personal time with God...

1. What is one new idea that you have learned?
2. What is one area of your life where God has been growing you?

Topical Study: Bible Study

There are five important parts of giving God's word practical authority over our lives: Hearing, Reading, Studying, Memorizing, and Meditating. Each is important for the understanding and application of God's word to our lives.

I. HEARING...

1. What kind of heart will best hear and use God's word? Luke 8:15
2. Who did Jesus say would be blessed? Luke 11:28

II. READING...

1. What are reasons for daily reading of the Bible? Deuteronomy 17:19
2. What encouragement is in Revelation 1:3?

A daily reading program which will take us systematically through the Bible is something many Christians use as a regular part of their daily devotional life. As a suggestion, begin with the Gospel of Mark or John - at the rate of two chapters a day the entire New Testament can be completed in 19 weeks.

III. STUDYING...

1. How should we study the Bible? Proverbs 2:4
2. What should be our goal in Bible study? 2 Timothy 2:15

Study is more than just reading. Study requires the search for understanding and application to our lives. A practical method of Bible study includes recording what was said (the “big picture”), what it means, and how it applies personally. The example below is given as a pattern you might want to follow.

Keep track of when you read and what you are reading as you move forward through the Bible section by section. This may be chapter by chapter or paragraph by paragraph. The goal is not to rush through a large number of verses but to allow God to speak to you from His word.	→	Date: <u>January 1, 2009</u>
After reading a section of Scripture record what the main idea was. What was the big picture? What was happening and why?	→	Passage: <u>John 3:16</u>
What was the meaning of the section? What was the point? What impression would have been made on those who saw or heard what took place? What was the author’s point to those he was writing to?	→	What does it say? <u>God sent Jesus so that whoever believes</u> <u>in Him will have eternal life</u>
Try to answer at least one or all of these questions: How does this relate to my life? What does this say to me? How can this teaching be applied to my life? Knowing what these verses say, what will I do differently? What will I keep doing and actually do more of it?	→	What does it mean? <u>If I trust in Jesus as my Savior I can</u> <u>have eternal life</u>
		What does it mean for me? <u>I should trust in Jesus as my Savior</u>

Keep in mind three guidelines for successful Bible study...

1. **Be Consistent:** Make a regular appointment with God (the same time each day - meeting with Him daily is best. Or, begin with a minimum of 3 times per week and work up to daily) and keep the appointment.
2. **Begin With Prayer:** Ask God to help you understand His word. Pray again at the end of your appointment and ask God to help you to remember and do the thing you are learning.
3. **Be Focused:** Writing things down will help you to focus your thoughts and clarify your thinking. Writing will also give you a record of what God has been teaching you that you can refer back to in the future.

IV. MEMORIZING...

1. What does God tell us to do with His word? Proverbs 7:3b
2. How did Jesus overcome Satan's temptations? Matthew 4:4,7,10
3. How are encouraged to prepare for when we are tempted? Proverbs 119:11
4. What does it mean for the word of Christ to dwell in us? Colossians 3:16

V. MEDITATING...

1. What promises are made to the person who continually meditates on God's word? Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2,3

Meditation is giving prayerful thought to God's word and your life. When you meditate, ask two questions: 1) What is the meaning of this verse? And, 2) How should this verse affect my life?

Many Christians hear the Bible taught regularly at church. But, only a few follow a purposeful program of Bible study and allowing God to apply His word to their lives. The chart below is given to help you analyze your habits for making the Bible yours. As you fill it in, pray about setting any needed new goals.

Method Of Intake	My Present Weekly Program	New Goals And Plans
Hearing the Bible		
Reading the Bible		
Studying the Bible		
Memorizing the Bible		
Meditating on the Bible		