

Bible study: Read & Learn

1. Preparation:

On coming to a bible study on reading and learning,
are you eager to engage or do you feel there are better things to be doing?
Do you enjoy reading and learning?
Or are they chores that you only do if you really must?

With what attitude do you come to this bible study session?

Reflect on the above questions, taking time to think. Don't rush this bit!
Then...

Share your thoughts and feelings with each other.

Pray for this time of discussion, reading and hopefully learning, that God will be with you and bless you.

2. The sermon on Learn will be based on Matthew 7.24-27, the parable of the wise and foolish builders, so add that in as a gospel extension if it's appropriate, but to start this study turn to 2 passages in the Old Testament instead:

Find both Psalm 1.1-3 and also Proverbs 4.20-22.

Read these out in turn, leaving a pause between these 2 readings.

How do you find meditating on or reading the Law, or Word, of God?

Does it delight you?

What do you think "the wicked" would advise meditating on today?

What does the content of your reading, watching, listening, conversations fill you up with?

3. To help you figure that out, does the content of your life fit the advice from Paul in Philippians 4.8?

What in your life is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable?

Do you recognise these things as gifts from God to meditate, reflect, dwell, think on?

How do you avoid filling yourself up with the distractions of this world?

How do you Read and Learn from your life, so that the Holy Spirit in you is contagious to "the wicked"?

4. Reading scripture, alongside the good things in our lives, including books, podcasts, TV and films, people, work and social activity, is good and Godly, so...

What routines in your life help you to read and meditate?

When do these routines get broken and Reading stops happening?

Do you need work-day and day-off routines that are different?

Do any of these routines need to include a spouse, partner or family?

Do you share your reading and learning with others?

Would this be beneficial

5. Then, how do you Learn from what you are Reading?

Do you read bible commentaries or devotionals to learn from other people?

Do you read books on the history of bible times to help you understand the nuances of scripture?

Do you seek to Learn as in understand or as in memorise scripture?

How do those 2 forms of learning spiritually feed you, how are they different or the same?

Other ways of learning include...

Journaling your thoughts and prayers based on your reading

Spiritual Direction where you discuss your Learning with a recognised Director

Self-examination using a series of questions such as the Ignatian Exercises

Are there ways of learning from today that you haven't thought about and want to try out?

6. Finally, let's turn to 2 Timothy 3.14-17:

Paul speaks to Timothy in this passage about what he has learnt and understood, and how that learning has instructed him for salvation through faith in Jesus.

How have you found your Learning has grown your faith and relationship with Jesus?

How much closer to God or Jesus do you want to grow?

What will you invest to attain that closeness, in terms of Reading and Learning?

How will you do that?

7. **Application:**

Learning, or studying scripture, such as using this Bible Study, is a good thing to do, but if it stops at learning for the sake of it then it's dead.

What does Paul says in 2 Timothy 3.16-17 that scripture is useful for?

How have you used or seen scripture used in these ways?
What has your Reading and Learning made you proficient in?
Have they equipped you for every good work in this world? How?
How has this study made you more proficient as someone belonging to God and living in this world?
How can you use scripture more fully?
What new ways or ideas about Reading or Learning have you come across in this study that you can learn from? Are there goals you might want to set yourselves in terms of reading, learning or studying scripture?
Make a covenant with your group to hold each other accountable to those goals.

8. Prayer:

- Pray for each other to be Readers and Learners of the Word of God, and then to be Doers of that Word in the world you are all part of.
- Pray that the L23 churches would all be places of learning where scripture is loved and lived.
- Pray for each other in the areas of community that you are bringing the Word of God to and want to see impacted for Jesus.