



HABIT 4

READING OUR BIBLE

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Context

The bible is God's Words, the most important words we can ever have. By His Word the heavens and the earth were created (see Genesis 1). In all that God does, God speaks and from His Words come life.

The bible is God's revelation to us. To know and understand God, Jesus and faith in him, we need to know and understand God's revelation to us. God is revealed by creation (Romans 1:20), by our conscience (Romans 2:14-15), through Jesus (Hebrews 1:1-2) and by His revealed word (2 Timothy 3:16).

1. Look at Psalm 119:9-16, what are all the ways that God's Word is important for living our lives? In what ways is God's Word important to you?

Observation

2. What if we did not have God's Word, the bible, as a record of God's actions and teaching in history, if we only had verbally handed down stories, and the writings of others which were not inspired. What effect would that have on how Christians could live out the gospel?

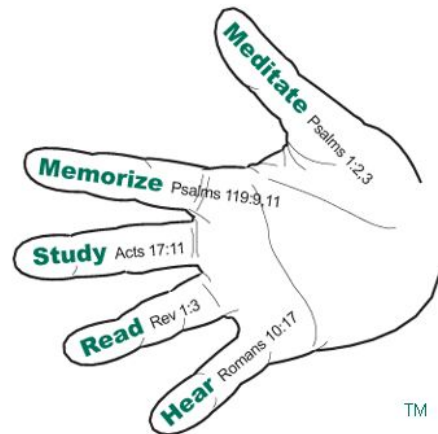
Meaning

3. According to 2 Timothy 3:14-17, what are all the benefits to us of reading, understanding and knowing, the Word of God?
4. Read Mark 10:46-52 aloud, slowly and attentively. Allow the words to resonate in your heart and mind. Linger on the words and phrases that catch your attention. Savour them as the Word of God and allow them to penetrate your heart. Where do these words connect with your life right now? How has God spoken to you through these words? Allow this to lead you into a time of prayer, as you respond to God.

Application

The bible is the inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God. Thus God's revealed word is very important for us to know, understand, and apply to our lives.

The diagram opposite is the Navigators, Word Hand illustration. It gives five ways of taking in God's Word: hearing (Romans 10:17), reading (Revelations 1:3), studying (Acts 17:11), memorizing (Psalm 119:9, 11), and meditating (Psalm 1:2-3).¹



5. What are some different, yet practical ways, you could practice the discipline of reading, memorising and meditating on God's Word? What would be the advantage of doing each one? What would be the advantage of doing all three?
6. Make a commitment (personally or together as a life group), to dedicate a four-week period to do the following;
 1. Each week read a whole book of the bible (including one gospel), in one sitting each.
 2. Memorise a verse of scripture each week that will be helpful to you.²
 3. Each day read a portion of scripture and note how God speaks to you.
 4. Set aside 15 uninterrupted minutes each day to meditate on a verse that struck you during your bible reading. Write down what you learn.

If you are not able to do all of these at once, then do as many as you can, but seek to be consistent in doing them.

¹ For the Navigators Word Hand illustration, see <https://www.navigators.org/resource/the-word-hand/>. **Hearing** the Word from pastors and teachers provides fresh insight into the Scripture. **Reading** gives us an overview of the Bible and is the foundation of a daily quiet time. **Studying** the Scriptures deepens our convictions. It requires greater time and effort but results in increased Bible knowledge. Most people retain 35 percent of what they study. **Memorizing** God's Word enables us to use the Sword of the Spirit to overcome temptations and to have verses readily available for ministering to others. **Meditation** is the inward process that accompanies each of the other four methods of Scripture intake.

² If you wish, you can choose from the *Navigators – Lessons on Assurance* series verses. **Assurance of Salvation** (1 John 5:11-12); **Assurance of Answered Prayer** (John 16:24); **Assurance of Victory over Sin** (1 Corinthians 10:13); **Assurance of Forgiveness** (1 John 1:9), and **Assurance of Guidance** (Proverbs 3:5-6).