



Small Group Discussion Guide For the week of June 23 - June 29, 2024

Main Thought and Scriptures:

The Bible is the Story of God and His heart for mankind. It is a diverse collection of 66 books, composed in three languages across three continents over 1,500 years by 40 different writers. These writers varied from shepherds and fishermen to kings and prophets, but the true author is the Spirit of God. The Bible encompasses various genres, such as law, history, wisdom, poetry, narrative, epistles, prophecy, and apocalyptic literature. Despite this diversity, the Bible tells one unified story: our need for Jesus and how to become more like Him.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...” (John 1:1, 14 NIV)

“Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”” (Matthew 4:4 NIV)

Reading the Bible is an essential practice in the life of a believer. Just as food feeds our body, God's Word feeds our spirit. It helps us understand God's character, His promises, and His will for our lives. Among other things, it equips us with the knowledge and strength to face life's challenges, provides comfort in times of trouble, and encourages us to grow in faith and love. As we delve into its pages, we encounter the power of God's Word, which not only informs us but also transforms us from the inside out.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT)

What should we do with the Bible?

- **Read the Word.**

The SOAP method for reading scripture involves four steps:

Scripture—write down a verse or passage.

Observation—note what stands out.

Application—reflect on how it applies to your life.

Prayer—pray about what you've learned and ask for guidance.

- **Memorize the Word.**

Memorizing scripture helps to internalize God's truths, making them easily accessible in times of need. By committing verses to memory, we equip ourselves with spiritual tools to resist temptation, find comfort, and encourage others.

- **Live the Word.**

The Word must become “flesh” in our lives. As we intentionally live out the truth and principles of God's Word, its power is brought into our lives and we become visible examples of Jesus to others.



Rick Warren wisely said, “The Bible should give us a bigger heart, not a bigger head.” The Bible is not just a book; it is the divine narrative that connects us to God’s heart and His mission. It invites us into a deeper relationship with Him and empowers us to live out our faith with purpose and passion.

Discussion Questions:

*(Break into groups of 3-5 to discuss, choose the questions that **best apply** to your group)*

- As you reflect on the main thought, scriptures, and the weekend sermon, what is the Lord highlighting to you and why? Please explain.
- What is your favorite Bible scripture and why? Or share a time when a particular scripture brought you comfort or guidance during a challenging situation.
- How do you incorporate Bible reading into your life? What are the barriers that make it challenging for you to spend time in God’s Word? What practical steps can you take to apply Bible reading into your life?
- How can you help one another stay disciplined in reading the Bible this week?

Prayer:

(Break into pairs and pray)

- Pray for one another to consistently read and engage in scripture.
- Pray for the specific person that you are believing to come to faith.

Walking In The Way Challenge

This week, we invite you to engage in the discipline of scripture reading using the S.O.A.P. method: Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. Here’s how you can get started, based on your level of comfort and experience:

Level 1: Practice solitude and do SOAP for 15 minutes, 1-2 days this week

Level 2: Practice solitude and do SOAP for 30 minutes, 3-5 days this week

Level 3: Practice solitude and do SOAP for 30-60 minutes, for 5-7 days this week and/or begin the Purple Book Challenge. Work through the Purple Book at your pace, with a goal of completing it within a year.

For additional information and resources, please visit pearlside.org/theway