**SIX WAYS TO GET A “GRASP” ON YOUR BIBLE**

The Hand Illustration

On this page trace an outline of your own hand!

**I. HOW TO HEAR GOD'S WORD**

"Faith comes from **hearing** the Word of God." Romans 10:17

**Ways to Hear God's Word**

The Bible on Audio

Church services & studies

Sermon recordings

PROBLEM: We forget \_\_\_\_\_ % of what we hear after 72 hours.

**I. HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR HEARING**

**1. Be *ready* and *eager* to hear God.**

(Jesus) "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Luke 8:8

“…my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear…” James 1:19

**2. Deal with attitudes that prevent hearing God (Luke 8:4-15)**

"Consider carefully how you listen ..." Luke 8:18

**A Closed Mind:** Is fear, pride, or bitterness preventing me from hearing God?

**A Superficial Mind:** Am I really serious about wanting to hear God speak?

**A Preoccupied Mind:** Am I too busy and concerned with other things to concentrate on what God has to say?

**3. Confess any sin in your life.**

"**... Get rid of** all moral filth and humbly accept the Word..." James 1:21

**4. Take notes on what you hear.**

“We must pay more **careful attention** to what we've heard, so that we do not drift away!” Hebrews 2:1

**\*\*\*\*\*\*Keep a Spiritual Notebook\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**5. Act on what you hear!**

“Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says!**" James 1:22

“Whoever ... does not simply listen and then forget, **but puts it into practice** - that person will be blessed in what he does.” James 1:25 (GN)

**II. HOW TO READ GOD'S WORD**

"Happy is the one who **reads** this book ... and obeys what is written in it!" Revelations 1:3 (GN)

How often should I read God's Word? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

"(The Scriptures) shall be his constant companion. **He must read from it everyday of his life** so that he will learn to respect the Lord his God by obeying all of his commands." Deuteronomy 17:19 (LB)

**SUGGESTIONS**

* Read it systematically. **Use a One Year Bible, very good habit.**
* Bible with notes.
* Read it in different translations: KJV (Most Accurate) but…NKJV, NIV, New Living Translation, etc. Sometimes easier to understand.
* Read it aloud quietly to yourself.
* Underline or color code key verses.
* Choose a reading plan and stick with it. **Use a One Year Bible, very good habit.**

If I read approximately \_\_\_\_\_\_ minutes a day, I can read through the Bible once a year.

**A BIBLE READING PLAN**

**THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 30 DAYS**

 1. Matthew 1-9

 2. Matthew 10-15

 3. Matthew 16-22

 4. Matthew 23-28

 5. Mark 1-8

 6. Mark 9-16

 7. Luke 1-6

 8. Luke 7-11

 9. Luke 12-18

 10. Luke 19-24

 11. John 1-7

 12. John 8-13

 13. John 14-22

 14. Acts 1-7

 15. Acts 8-14

 16. Acts 15-21

 17. Acts 22-28

 18. Romans 1-8

 19. Romans 9-16

 20. 1 Corinthians 1-9

 21. 1 Corinthians 10-16

 22. 2 Corinthians 1-13

 23. Galatians - Ephesians

 24. Philippians - 2 Thessalonians

 25. 1 Timothy - Philemon

 26. Hebrews

 27. James - 2 Peter

 28. 1 John - 3 John

 29. Revelation 1-11

 30. Revelation 12-22

**III. HOW TO STUDY GOD'S WORD**

"... they accepted the message eagerly and **studied the Scriptures** everyday ..." Acts 17:11 (Ph)

"Be a good workman ... **Know what His Word** says and means."

 2 Timothy 2:15

The difference between reading and studying the Bible is that you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when you study.

The secret of effective Bible study is knowing how to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR BIBLE STUDY**

**"Into His Marvelous LIGHT"**

**“Exploring God’s Word” See Bro. and Sis. Smith, Tues Nights at 6PM**

**Study Bibles:**

 The Best Personal Study Bible:

 **"The Life Application Bible" (Tyndale)**

 The Best Topical Study Bible:

 **"Thompson Chain Reference Bible - NIV (Kirkbride)**

 The Best Background Study Bible:

 **"The NIV Study Bible" (Zondervan)**

 The Best Doctrine Study Bible:

 **"The Disciples Study Bible" (Holman)**

**Bible Handbooks:**

 **"What the Bible is all About."**

 **"Haley's Bible Handbook" (Zondervan)**

 **"Eerdman's Bible Handbook" (Eerdmans)**

**Other Important Study Tools:**

1. **The Bible Knowledge Commentary- John F Walvoord**
2. **As many different translations as you can afford**

 **(These can be purchased in parallel editions)**

1. **A complete concordance to match your translation**
2. **A Bible on computer program such as Blue Letter Bible and E-Sword**

 **"Smith’s Bible Dictionary" (Holman)**

 **"The Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible" (Baker)**

 **"The New Bible Commentary" (Eerdmans)**

 **"The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands" (Moody)**

**Topical Study Book:**

**“The New Birth” David K. Bernard (Word Aflame)**

**“The Oneness View of Jesus Christ” David K. Bernard (Word Aflame)**

**“Hebrews, Better Things” Daniel L. Segraves (Word Aflame)**

**“James, Faith at Work” Daniel L. Segraves (Word Aflame)**

**“You can understand the Bible” Daniel L. Segraves (Word Aflame)**

**IV. HOW TO MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD**

"Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart." Proverbs 7:2-3 (LB)

**BENEFITS OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE**

**1. It helps me resist temptation.**

"I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalms 119:11

**2. It helps me make wise decisions.**

"Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path. Psalms 119:105

**3. It strengthens me when I'm under stress.**

"... Your promises to me are my hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me!" Psalms 119:49 (LB)

**4. It comforts me when I'm sad.**

"Your words are what sustain me ... They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me." Jeremiah 15:16 (LB)

**5. It helps me witness to unbelievers.**

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

**WHEN TO MEMORIZE A VERSE**

* During your Quiet Time
* While Exercising
* While waiting (spare moments)
* At bedtime (Ps 63:6)

**HOW TO MEMORIZE A VERSE**

1. Pick a verse that speaks to you.

2. Say the reference **before and after** the verse.

3. Read the verse aloud many times. Record it!

4. Break the verse into natural phrases.

5. Emphasize key words when quoting the verse.

6. Write down the verse and erase a word one at a time.

7. Write out the verse on a flash card.

8. Carry some cards with you at all times for review.

9. Display your verses in prominent places.

10. Always memorize the verse word perfect.

11. Put the verse to music. Write a song!

12. Get a partner so you can check each other.

**Suggested beginning rate: 2 new verses a week.**

THREE KEYS TO MEMORIZING:
1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We remember what is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

“Your teachings are worth more to me than thousands of pieces of gold and silver.” Psalms 119:72 (NCV)

SCRIPTURE MEMORY COURSE

The following verses suggest a "balance" in Scripture Memory. The verses selected are key verses in understanding the foundations of the Christian Life and Christian Growth. Do not feel tied-down to this suggested list. This is only a tool to lead you in an understanding of the importance of memorizing "key" verses.

***Live the New Life:***

* Christ the Center II Corinthians 5:17; Gal. 2:20
* Obedience to Christ Romans 12:1; John 14:21
* The Word II Timothy 3:16; Josh. 1:8
* Prayer John 15:7; Phil. 4:6-7
* Fellowship Matthew 18:20; Hebrews 10:24
* Witnessing Matthew 4:19; Romans 1:16

***Proclaim Christ:***

* All Have Sinned Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6
* Sin's Penalty Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27
* Christ Paid the Penalty Romans 5:8; I Peter 3:18
* Salvation Not by Works Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5
* Must Receive Christ John 1:12; Rev. 3:20
* Assurance of Salvation I John 5:13; John 5:24

***Rely on God's Resources:***

* His Spirit I Corinthians 3:16; I Corinthians 2:12
* His Strength Isaiah 41:10; Phil. 4:13
* His Faithfulness Lamentation 3:22; Num. 23:19
* His Peace Isaiah 26:3; I Peter 5:7
* His Provision Romans 8:32; Phil 4:19
* His Help in Temptation Hebrews 2:18; Ps. 119:9, 11

***Be Christ's Disciple:***

* Put Christ First Matthew 6:33; Luke 9:23
* Separate from the World I John 2:15-16; Romans 12:2
* Be Steadfast I Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 12:3
* Serve Others Mark 10:45; II Corinthians 4:5
* Give Generously Proverbs 3:9-10; II Corinthians 9:6-7
* Develop World Vision Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19-20

***Grow in Christ likeness:***

* Love John 13:34-35; I John. 3:18
* Humility Philippians 2:3-4; I Peter 5:5-6
* Purity Ephesians 5:3; I Peter 2:11
* Honesty Leviticus 19:11; Acts 24:16
* Faith Hebrews 11:6; Romans 4:20-21
* Good Works Galatians 6:9-10; Matthew 5:16

**V. HOW TO MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD**

"(Those) who are always **meditating** on His Laws ... are like trees along a river bank bearing fruit ... they never wither and whatever they do prospers." Psalms 1:2-3 (LB)

Meditation is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about a Bible verse in order to discover how I can apply its truth to my own life.

**WHY MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE?**

**1. It is the key to becoming like Christ.**

" ... Your life is shaped by your thoughts." Proverbs 4:23 (GN)

" ... Be transformed by the **renewing** of your mind." Romans 12:2

"As we ... **contemplate** the Lord's glory, we are being transformed into His likeness ..." 1 Corinthians 3:18

**2. It is the key to answered prayer.**

"If you live your life in Me, and my words live in your hearts, **you can ask for whatever you like**, and it will come true for you." John 15:7 (Ph)

**3***.*  **It is the key to successful living***.*

" ... Meditate on (the Word) day and night, so you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." Joshua 1:8

**SIX WAYS TO MEDITATE ON A VERSE**

**1. Picture it!** Visualize the scene in your mind.

**2. Pronounce it!** Say the verse aloud, each time emphasizing a different word.

**3. Paraphrase it!** Rewrite the verse in your own words.

**4. Personalize it!** Replace the pronouns or people in the verse with your own

name.

**5. Pray it!** Turn the verse into a prayer and say it back to God.

**6. Probe it!** Ask the following nine questions:

**S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. Questions**

Is there any ...

1. **SIN TO CONFESS?**
2. **PROMISE TO CLAIM?**
3. **ATTITUDE TO CHANGE?**
4. **COMMAND TO KEEP?**
5. **EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW?**
6. **PRAYER TO PRAY?**
7. **ERROR TO AVOID?**
8. **TRUTH TO BELIEVE?**
9. **SOMETHING TO THANK GOD FOR?**

**VI. HOW TO APPLY GOD'S WORD**

"Do not fool yourselves by just listening to the Word. Instead, put it into practice." James 1:22

" ... Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthews 5:19

**HOW TO APPLY SCRIPTURE**

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**Example Text**

**Gen 17:9  And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.**

**Gen 17:10  This *is* my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.**

**Gen 17:11  And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.**

**1st ask: What did it mean to the original hearers?**

**2nd ask: What is the underlying timeless principle?**

**3rd ask: Where or how could I practice that principle?**

Write out a sentence that describes a project or action you will take to apply the truth. ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**4 MARKS OF A GOOD APPLICATION PROJECT**

 **It's**

 **It's**

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"Now that you know these things - **do them**! That is the path of blessing!" John 13:17 (LB)