

Small Group Discussion

Week 8



Chapter 8 – Studying the Bible Prayerfully and Obediently

Remember, teach what you learn and share life, not just information.

Coaching Conversations:

An intentional leader should always be observing his or her group members to identify people who show potential for leadership. As you begin to identify those people, look for ways that they can help you as you lead your group. You might even consider asking one of those individuals to actually lead your group time. If you do, make sure you find time to help that person prepare outside of your group time. Bring them alongside you so they can see how you lead, but allow them the freedom to lead through their own unique personality and giftings. If you're not sure how to help others lead, we can help you with that! Feel free to ask your staff contact or connect with other seasoned group leaders for suggestions.

Starting the Conversation:

As you begin your study, ask your group members to share what they think is the most difficult aspect of studying the Bible. Share your answer first and then take note of your group member's responses. Their answers may give you clarity on how to approach the final chapters.

Life Group Questions

1. Describe your experience with studying the Bible. What approaches have you tried? What has been effective? What has been ineffective? What have you learned in the process?
2. What does it look like to take joy in reading the Bible? Have you ever experienced this? If so, what is it like? If not, why do you think you've never enjoyed the Bible?
3. Read through Psalm 119. What do you find striking, challenging, or encouraging?
4. In practical terms, what does it mean to study the Bible prayerfully? What can you do to build prayer and dependence on God into your study of the Bible?
5. Have your group identify the commands that you know God wants us all to be doing (for example, loving the people around you, forgiving others, praying, etc.).
6. Discuss the importance of applying biblical truth to your life. If you find that you haven't been applying biblical truth to your life, then what changes do you need to make to the way you study the Bible?
7. In your own words, explain what it means to study the Bible with faith. Do you see this playing out in your life? How so?

8. Take a minute to consider everything your group has discussed. What changes do you need to make in the way you study the Bible?

Continuing the Conversation (optional):

- **Read Prayerfully** – Prayer is the foundation to devotion and obedience in Bible study (pg. 112-114). If you've never prayed through scripture, start with verses such as Psalm 119: 18, 27, 33-40, 66, 108, 116, 124, 133-135, 149, 169-176. You can also check out Howard Hendrick's article entitled "Read Prayerfully" for more suggestions on how to incorporate prayer in to Bible Study. This article can be found in the online resources page.
- **Bible Study Plans** – Without a consistent plan to approach our study of Scripture, we are more likely to fail than succeed. Check out this week's additional resource page (found online) for a few sample Bible reading plans to help you plan out your study time.
- **Additional Related Passages:** More Prayers from Scripture: 1 Kings 3:6-9, Psalm 3-7, 13, 23, 25, 51, Matthew 6:9-13, John 17, Ephesians 3:14-21, Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 1:9-17.
- Memory Verse: James 1:22-25

Prayer Assignment:

Ask God to give you a heart for His Word. Ask Him to help you approach His Word devotionally and obediently.