

Here is some Pre-Reading to do before we start Session One

Session 1 - Why Study the Bible?

Before the first session, please read through this short introduction and the Bible passages listed below. You do not need to write anything specific about them or provide answers to questions. Just read slowly, think honestly, and note anything that stands out to you.

Main Thought

- We study the Bible because it is God's Word.

The Bible is not just a collection of religious writings, moral lessons, historical stories, or inspirational sayings. It is Holy Scripture. Through Scripture, God reveals Himself, His character, His will, His works, His promises, His warnings, and His plan to redeem people through Christ.

The whole Bible points us toward God's redemptive purpose. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture shows us who God is, what has happened to the world because of sin, and how God has acted to save, restore, and redeem through Christ.

This means Bible study is not just about gaining information. It is about learning to hear, understand, trust, and obey the Word of God.

A Word of Encouragement

You may feel that you are not able to "study" the Bible as others do. But studying the Bible doesn't begin with being clever, academic, or confident. It begins with coming to God honestly.

God is not looking for pride. He is looking for humility.

Psalm 1 describes the blessed man as someone who delights in the law of the Lord and meditates on it day and night. That does not mean he understands everything instantly. It means he gives attention to God's Word, returns to it, thinks on it, and lets it shape him.

James 1:5 is also a great encouragement:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

God does not shame His children for asking for wisdom. He gives generously.

So the first step is simple: come to the Word, ask God for help, and be willing to learn.

Please Read These Passages Before Session One

1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

As you read, ask:

- What does this passage say Scripture is?
- What does this passage say Scripture does?
- What kind of person does Scripture help form?

2. Hebrews 4:12

As you read, ask:

- How is the Word of God described?
- What does it mean that the Word is “living and powerful”?
- Why might this matter when I feel weak, uncertain, or unable?

3. Psalm 1:1-3

As you read, ask:

- What does the blessed man avoid?
- What does he delight in?
- What picture is used to describe the person who meditates on God’s Word?

4. Luke 24:44-47

As you read, ask:

- What does Jesus say about the Scriptures?
- How do the Scriptures point to Him?
- What does this show us about the larger purpose of the Bible?

5. James 1:5

As you read, ask:

- What should we do if we lack wisdom?
- How does God give?
- What does “without reproach” tell us about God’s heart toward those who ask?

One Simple Thing to Bring next time we catch up.

Before the first session, **write down one sentence** in response to this question:

- **What do I hope God will help me understand or grow in as I learn to study the Bible?**

It does not need to sound impressive. It just needs to be honest.

Closing Thought

I’m not asking you, nor am I teaching you, to master the Bible in eight weeks.

I’m asking you to let me help you learn a new way to come to the Bible faithfully.

The goal is not to become proud of knowledge. The goal is to start getting to know God more truly, see Christ more clearly, trust His Word more deeply, and walk with Him more faithfully.