

Handling the Word

Lesson 2 - The Right Heart

Prayer, Humility, and Obedience

Today we are asking one simple question

How should I come to God's Word?

The right method matters, but the right heart matters first. We come to Scripture not to impress God, prove ourselves, or collect religious ideas. We come to listen to the Lord, ask for His help, and respond with trust and obedience.

Psalm 119:18; James 1:21-25; Isaiah 66:1-2; John 7:16-17; James 4:6-8

A few things we are looking for today

- We ask God to open our eyes as we read.
- We receive the Word with humility, not pride.
- We do not only hear the Word - we seek to obey it.
- We draw near to God, trusting that He draws near to us.
- We remember that correction from God is not rejection. It is part of His faithful care.

Let's check in honestly

How did you go with the pre-reading for this session?

Was there a verse or thought that encouraged you, challenged you, or stood out to you?

When you come to the Bible, what do you usually feel most - confidence, hesitation, pressure, hunger, confusion, expectation, or something else?

A kind reminder before we read

You do not need perfect answers. We are simply learning to slow down, notice what God has said, and respond honestly.

If Scripture exposes weakness or sin, that does not mean God is pushing you away. The Lord corrects His people because He is faithful and merciful.

Read and talk together

Read each passage slowly. These questions are not a test. They are just conversation starters to help us listen carefully to the Word.

Psalm 119:18

This is a simple prayer to pray before opening Scripture.

What does the writer ask God to do?

What does this teach us about needing God's help when we read the Bible?

Try turning this verse into your own short prayer:

James 1:21-25

James reminds us that the Word is not only to be heard. It is to be received and obeyed.

What words or ideas show how the Word should be received?

What warning is given about hearing without doing?

What could it look like to be a doer of the Word this week?

Isaiah 66:1-2

This passage helps us think about humility before God and His Word.

What kind of person does God say He looks upon?

How would you describe a humble heart in your own words?

What do you think it means to tremble at God's Word?

John 7:16-17

Jesus connects knowing God's truth with a willingness to do God's will.

What does Jesus say about His teaching?

What connection does Jesus make between willingness and understanding?

Why do you think obedience is part of Bible study, not just something that comes later?

James 4:6-8

This passage gives both a call and a promise.

What does God give to the humble?

What are we called to do?

What promise is given when we draw near to God?

How does that promise encourage you personally?

Pulling it together

Finish this sentence in your own words: When I come to the Bible, I want to come with...

What is one thing God may be showing you about your heart as you come to His Word?

What is one prayer you want to pray before reading Scripture this week?

Today's simple takeaway

Faithful Bible study begins with a teachable heart.

We come prayerfully, humbly, and with a willingness to obey. God is not asking us to pretend we are strong. He invites us to draw near, ask for wisdom, and receive His Word with faith.

This week - keep it simple

Each time you open your Bible this week, begin with this simple prayer from **Psalm 119:18**:

Lord, open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.

Then choose one of these simple practices:

- Read **James 1:21-25** twice during the week and write one sentence about what stands out.
- Before reading Scripture, pause and ask: Am I willing for God to correct me and lead me?
- Choose one small act of obedience from something God shows you in His Word.
- Write one short prayer that begins: Lord, help me to receive Your Word with...

One thing I will try this week:

Closing prayer

Lord, help me to come to Your Word with humility. Open my eyes, teach my heart, correct what is false, strengthen what is weak, and help me obey what You show me. Draw me closer to You through Your Word. Amen.