



SEMESTER 1 - WEEK 3

DISCIPLINE 1 - PERSONAL HEART SHEPHERDING

Honoring the Lord in Your Bible Reading

Seven principles for shepherding your heart to honor the Lord in your Bible reading:

- I. Pursue God's _____.
- II. Depend on _____ as your greatest aid.
- III. Employ _____ in your reading practices.
 - a. Hold fast to the _____ use of words and language.
 - b. Actively _____ yourself to understand God's Word.
 - c. Understand the _____ between interpretation and application and implication.
 - Interpretation is understanding the truth in the passage within the intention of the author. Interpretation finds the meaning the author intended in his historical situation.
 - Implication is how the text implicates you. How does your thinking need to change?
 - Application is the various ways that one may need to live or think in light of that meaning in the passage. What you do in response to the text.

IV. Long to be _____ by God. [Psalm 119:9-16]

a. _____ God with all your heart. [10]

*10 With all my heart I have sought You;
Do not let me wander from Your commandments.*

b. _____ God's instruction in your heart. [11]

*11 Your word I have treasured in my heart,
That I may not sin against You.*

c. _____ for instruction from God. [12]

*12 Blessed are You, O Lord;
Teach me Your statutes.*

d. _____ God's instruction to others. [13]

*13 With my lips I have told of
All the ordinances of Your mouth.*

e. _____ in God's instruction. [14]

*14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies,
As much as in all riches.*



f. _____ on God's instruction. [15]

*15 I will meditate on Your precepts
And regard Your ways.*

g. _____ God's instruction. [16]

*16 I shall delight in Your statutes;
I shall not forget Your word.*

V. Humbly _____ yourself to God's wisdom.

VI. Trustingly resign yourself to the _____ of God's word.

VII. Obediently embrace God's care for you through the _____.



MINISTRY PASSAGES

DISCIPLINE 1 [THE HEART]

Psalm 119:9-16 — How Can A Young Man Keep His Way Pure? Keep It According To Your Word

- 9 *How can a young man keep his way pure?
By keeping it according to Your word.*
- 10 *With all my heart I have sought You;
Do not let me wander from Your commandments.*
- 11 *Your word I have treasured in my heart,
That I may not sin against You.*
- 12 *Blessed are You, O Lord;
Teach me Your statutes.*
- 13 *With my lips I have told of
All the ordinances of Your mouth.*
- 14 *I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies,
As much as in all riches.*
- 15 *I will meditate on Your precepts
And regard Your ways.*
- 16 *I shall delight in Your statutes;
I shall not forget Your word.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 — All Scripture is Inspired by God and Profitable

- 16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for
training in righteousness;*
- 17 *so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

DISCIPLINE 1 [THE HEART]

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION



1. Which of the seven principles was most helpful or convicting to you? Why?

2. If God uses His Word to shape our desires, expose sin, and strengthen our trust in Him, what have you noticed in your own heart when you regularly go without it? What tends to keep you from reading Scripture consistently?

3. How do you usually decide whether your time in God's Word was worthwhile? If you did not feel moved or discover something new, could that time still have been fruitful? Why?

PRAYER

An example of how the disciplines might shape your prayerful approach to God through His Word:

Heavenly Father, I intend this time in Your Word to be a prayerful expression of worship of You, desire for You, love for You, need of You and dependence on You. Your Word tells me that as God, You are set apart from Your creation in holiness. You are also high above all things and sovereign in



Your reign over all things, including my life. Yet how tenderly You stoop toward Your creatures to show love and compassion and countless kindnesses. Your perfect provision sustains all that You have made and glorifies Your great name. You are worthy to be worshiped and I desire to see more of You in Your Word! My pursuit of You through Your word and prayer is only possible through Your Son Jesus Christ, who is my Savior. So, I approach You through Him, my Substitute and High Priest – the One whom I love but have not yet seen. His death in my place has secured for me this place before Your throne to express my need to You. So...

“Why have I prayerfully come before You with my Bible open?”

I have Your Word open before me because You have revealed Yourself there more clearly than any other place and I long to know You better. I desire to see You in all Your glory in the pages before me. I simply and humbly draw near to You to study You. Nearness to You through these pages of Scripture is my good. I also have Your Word open before me because I need to learn more of the nature of my sin and fallenness before You, so that I might better understand what danger I truly was in and what dangers still lurk within me through my indwelling sin. I need to see both the sin that provoked Your righteous wrath toward Your Son and Your grace that moved You to act as Savior toward me in Jesus. If I do not fight to have Scripture’s view of my sin today, I will easily be duped by sin’s deception and become unaware of or indifferent to sin’s nearness to me. I then will be vulnerable to sin’s entanglements. Sin at that point can then become familiar, even tolerable to me. Finally, sin can then become a delight to me. Before I know it, I will be in a position of weakness with sin. I will be in the fight of my life to be free from its entanglements, or may even no longer desire to be free from its entanglements. If I do nothing today concerning my view of sin, my view of sin will only grow dangerously cloudy.

And Your Word is open before me so that I might undergird my life again today with Your saving heart and motive in the gospel of Your Son, who overcame the penalty of my sin and the power of my sin to enslave me. I am here to rehearse Your bedrock promises in the gospel to my soul. There are treasures in the gospel of Jesus that I have yet to discover in my own life and I long to find them and be nourished by them. If I stagger today under the weight of my sin, the gospel will buoy me and provide me the gospel rest I need. And if I’m in a moment of gospel growth and success, rehearsing the gospel will lead me to humbly acknowledge that all the credit and praise go to You.

Finally, I have Your Word open before me to study what righteousness and holiness of life look like for one who has been made into a new creature in Christ. In the new man You have created not only a desire for obedience but also a Spirit-dependent equipping within. I need to consistently feed those new God-given desires in my new condition so that they grow. I also need to continuously express my dependence upon the Holy Spirit in this fight for obedience. If I do not study this righteousness and holiness of life and what the blessings of obedience are, I should not expect my desire for obedience to grow. Indwelling sin will do everything possible to quench that desire. By



Your grace and power, as I see holiness of life placed in front of me in the commands of Scripture, I will increasingly align my life and behavior with what pleases You.

I desire my heart and mind to be full of You because of what these pages reveal to me about You in all Your greatness. I long for You to spill out of me into my home and wherever You lead me today. All who come into contact with me today must interact with one whose heart has drawn near to You and is striving to obey You. Their best hope for salvation or for growth in the gospel will come from one who has searched for You in Your Word and gazed upon Your Son in the gospel and who walks by Your Spirit.

In Jesus' name I pray,
Amen.

