

FITFOR DUTY

Student Small Group Guide



PATHWAY CHURCH

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Step 3: Study Your Bible

A. Purpose

The Bible reveals Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Jesus is at the center of our lives and the practice of our faith, and important truths about Him are revealed in both the New and the Old Testaments. The Bible is the Living and Inspired Word of God. It is living, in that it is God's message to us, providing us with concrete moral values, practical advice about life and living, and spiritual nourishment for our souls; it is called "inspired" because it was given to men by God.

Matthew 4:4 (Jesus said,) 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' TLB

As Christians we believe that the Bible shows us the basis (Jesus Christ) on which we build our faith and reveals for us in practical terms how we should practice that faith. This lesson will help us to better understand how to read and study the Bible.

B. Summary

- The Bible was written for a purpose
- The Bible is useful to teach us truth, to warn us about error in our lives, to show us how to correct our mistakes and to train us in how to live according to God's will.
- To properly study the Bible we need to:
Listen to it, Read it, Study it,
Memorize it, Meditate on it
- We need to set aside time every day for Bible study and meditation

C. Questions to Ponder

We believe that the Bible is "God's Word." What does that mean to you?

Some people argue that the Bible is not relevant in a "modern" and "scientific" society. In what ways do you believe the Bible is real and vital today?

Why do you think there are so many translations of the Bible? Is there a reason why we should read and study more than one?

Step 4: Learn to Pray

A. Purpose

As Christians it is important that throughout our lifetimes we spend time getting to know God. The best way to get to know someone better is simply to talk with them on a regular basis. Prayer is a conversation, not a monologue - it involves both speaking to God and hearing from God. Because of this, prayer and bible study often go hand in hand, because God frequently uses the inspired words of Scripture to answer prayer. The Bible invites us to seek God and promises that if we seek Him, He will open our hearts to know Him.

1 Chronicles 28:9 promises: *"If you seek him, he will be found by you..."* NIV

Jeremiah 24:7 *Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord...* NKJV

We have the privilege direct access to God through Jesus Christ. By His own example, Jesus made prayer an important personal priority. In the prayers of Jesus and others in the Bible we have examples and models on which to build our own prayer patterns.

B. Summary

- Jesus taught us to pray and gave us The Lord's Prayer as a model.
- Prayer should contain several elements:
Adoration (Worship, Praise)
Confession (Opening our hearts to God with total honesty)
Thanksgiving (All we have is from God - we need to give Him thanks)
Supplication (Ask God for what you need, intercede for others)
- It is important to choose a time set aside every day for prayer. When would be the best time for you to spend in prayer (and Bible study)?

C. Questions to Ponder

Prayer does change things, and it also changes us. How do you think that happens?

How would you describe prayer?