

Lesson 5a: What Is the Word of God?

Key Verse:	“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16 NASB).
Key Scriptures:	Isaiah 55:10–11 John 1:1–3, 14 Luke 8:4–15 James 1:22–25 Hebrews 4:12–13 Psalm 119:105 Ephesians 5:25–27
Objective:	The student will understand the importance of the Word of God as it concerns spiritual growth.
Introduction:	The Word of God is the most powerful force in the world. Whenever God speaks, things happen (Isa. 55:10–11). When God says He will do something, it will be done. His Word never fails. Throughout the Scriptures, the power of God’s Word at work is evident. From the beginning of time to its end, God, through His Word, works out His purposes in the lives and experiences of all humanity.

I. The most powerful force in the world is the Word of God.

- **The Word of God possesses certain characteristics (Isaiah. 55:10–11).**

1. God’s Word cannot fail.

God’s Word is full of life. It cannot return void.

God’s Word will produce fruit in your life and fulfill God’s purposes (Ps. 1:1–3).

- **God’s Word has _____ power (Ps. 33:6–9).**
- **God’s Word brings salvation in the new creation (John 1:1–14).**
- **God’s Word penetrates your life (Heb. 4:12–13).**

II. There are five main symbols of the Word of God.

- **Light is a symbol of God's Word (Ps. 119:105).**
- **Water is a symbol of God's Word (Eph. 5:25–27).**
- **Seed is a symbol of God's Word (Luke 8:4–15).**
- **Fire and hammer are symbols of God's Word (Jer. 23:29).**
- **Honey is a symbol of God's Word (Ps. 19:7–11).**

III. The Scriptures have four main functions.

- **The Scriptures reveal Jesus Christ (John 5:39).**
- **The Scriptures build character (John 15:1–4).**
- **The Scriptures bring spiritual maturity (2 Tim. 3:16–17).**
- **The Scriptures impart faith (Rom. 10:17).**

Summary:	<p>Everything about God's Word is full of life! It teaches, corrects, guides, and trains. It addresses every area of life and is relevant to all people and cultures. God's Word is true; it never fails.</p> <p>God's Word is light, illuminating the mind and heart to the truth of the Gospel. God's Word is like water, cleansing from sin. Like precious seed, God's Word will bear fruit. When necessary, God's Word purges like fire and breaks like a hammer. God's Word is sweet, bringing healing and nourishment.</p> <p>God's Word reveals Jesus, and as you come to know Him better, you will be transformed into His image. The Word of God matures you and shapes your character; ever challenging you to become more like the Savior. The Word of God releases faith in your heart, so that you can please God and become a partaker of His nature.</p>
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Questions and Discussion Points

1. Does God's Word ever fail? If it did, would creation survive?
2. There are five symbols of the Word in this teaching unit. Has God spoken to you in any of these ways? Discuss.
3. Do you allow the Word of God to be effective in your life? Do you make room for it, and do you respond to it as God asks?
4. Why are the Scriptures necessary to building a sure foundation to believe in and trust in without doubting?
5. Can you understand God's Word without the help of the Holy Spirit? Discuss.
6. If the Bible is God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16), can you, with your natural mind, critically analyze it in order to understand its truths?

Lesson 5b: Reading the Bible

Your Roadmap for the Journey

“But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’”” (Matt. 4:4 NKJV)

“Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the world, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation” (1 Pet. 2:2 NASB)

A person cannot live without food and water, as both are required for healthy physical life. Spiritual life is no different; if you don't regularly feed from God's living bread of life, His Word, you will starve to death spiritually. Jesus said that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from God's mouth. When Jesus made this statement, He was being tempted by the devil. He successfully overcame the temptation, however, not by exerting willpower, but by exercising faith and trust in God's Word. As you feast daily from God's Word, you will find the nourishment you need on your journey of faith.

I. Success for the journey comes through the Word of God.

- **Living by the Word of God brings blessing (Ps. 1:1-3)**

1. The blessed man has abundant life. 3 John 2
2. The blessed man has joy. Psalm 1:1
3. The blessed man is separated from the world Eph. 4:1
4. The blessed man is saturated with the Word of God
5. The blessed man is situated by living water Psalm 1:3

- **The Word of God brings true success (Josh 1:3-8).**

- **The Word of God brings cleansing (Ps. 119:9-11).**

II. Here are some tips for reading your Bible.

- **Ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher, or counselor, so that you can learn the will and ways of God (John 16:13-14; Ps. 119:18).**
- **Accept what God is saying to you through the Bible (Heb. 3:7-8; 4:1-2), for faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17).**
- **Speak Scriptures out loud to God, to yourself, and to Satan. Matt. 4:7**
- **Meditate on the Word (Prov. 4:20-23; Josh. 1:8).**
- **Respond to what you read in the Word by putting it into practice James 1:23-24**
- **Write down what God has impressed on your heart and mind through your Bible reading.**
- **Memorize verses from Scripture.**

The Bible provides your road map to your Christian journey. Without it, you will never reach your eternal destination of heaven. The more you know about the Bible, the stronger you will be in your faith and the less likely you will be to fall victim to Satan's attacks.

Listening to sermons, attending conferences, reading books, and watching Christian television are all good uses of time, but they are no substitute for the daily reading of God's Word. It is absolutely essential to your Christian growth. Make this discipline a part of your life and you'll soon be accelerating down the road of faith in your Christian journey.

Questions to Consider...

1. Each day, write down one thing that God speaks to you from the Bible. Share with one other person what God reveals to you.
2. When do you have your daily time in the Word of God? What do you do during that time? In what ways would you like to improve your time in the Word?
3. Have you memorized a Bible verse that is particularly meaningful to you? If so, write it down from memory to the best of your ability.

Establishing an Effective Devotional Life

A Devotional has Four Components

- First, Reading of the Word of God
 - Second, A time of Reflection and Meditation
 - Third, A time of Journaling
 - Fourth, A time of Prayer
1. Reading of the Word of God
 - a. Choose a version of the Bible that you can understand. (Ex. – NIV)
 - b. Choose a book of the Bible to read. (New Testament: John; Old Testament: Psalms)
 - c. Begin with small portions.
 2. A time of Reflection and Meditation
 - a. In your time of reflection meditate on what you have read.
 - b. Give the Holy Spirit the time to illuminate your mind and grow in understanding.
 - c. Listen to God. Learn how to distinguish the voice of God. John 10:4-5.
 3. A time of Journaling.
 - a. In your time of meditation write down some notes on what the portion of Scripture you read is telling you.
 - b. Dedicate a notebook where you can write down your thoughts.
 4. A time of Prayer.
 - a. Pray early in the morning. Praying early in the morning, before your work is best because your mind is clear and your body is rested. It will also give you the opportunity to pray over situations that you may face during the day. Psalms 5:3

- b. Pray in a place that is quiet and free from distractions. Matthew 14:23
- c. Pray out loud. This will help you keep focused in prayer. Psalm 3:4
- d. Pray to the Father in the name of Jesus. John 16:23
- e. Pray using the Word. As you read the Word, pray according to what God is speaking to your heart through the Word. Psalm 119:18.
- f. Pray with Faith. Mark 11:24
- g. Pray with a clean heart and a pure conscience. Psalm 66:18
- h. Do not be scared to draw close to God. Hebrews 4:16

The Fruit: The Results of a Devotional Time

1. A relationship with God.
2. Spiritual growth.
3. Understanding of the character, ways and will of God.
4. Humility and brokenness before God. James 4:10
5. It will give you spiritual strength so you will not give in and give up. Luke 18:1
6. It takes you to the spiritual world and makes God and His truths real to you. 2 Kings 6:17
7. It gives you the ability to be able to minister to others effectively. Acts 13:2
8. Find direction and guidance for your life. James 1:5
9. Becomes the weapon that you will need to defeat the influence of the Enemy in
10. your life. Matthew 26:41

Lesson 5c: Establishing a Daily Time with God

Your Directions for the Journey

Key Verse:	“It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after he had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples’” (Luke 11:2 NASB)
Key Scriptures:	Joshua 1:7-8 James 1:22-25 Exodus 34:29 Luke 5:16
Objective:	In parts 1 and 2 of this lesson, you will learn why it is important to spend time with the Lord and how to implement this spiritual discipline into your life.
Introduction:	In any relationship that is of value and that is going to grow and develop, communication is essential. So it is in your relationship with God. If you want to grow spiritually, you must devote time to talking to the Lord and learning how to listen as He speaks to you. In this way, you will build a relationship with the very source of life and truth, that is, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

I. Why do you need a daily time with God?

- It will help you grow in knowledge of God.
- It will help you develop a living relationship with God.
- It will help you express your love and commitment to God.
- It will help you receive direction and guidance.
- It will help you get equipped for the day.
- It will encourage your heart and renew your spirit.
- It will cause you to grow in spiritual maturity.

II. There are two main parts of a quiet time with God.

- Prayer is the first part.
- The Word of God is the second part. Ps. 119:105

III. Here are two main suggestions for an effective quiet time.

- Choose a place that is quiet.
- Choose a definite time.

IV. Here are some more helpful prayer tips.

- Start your time of prayer with thanksgiving and praise.
- Confess any sin or unforgiving attitude that the Holy Spirit brings to your attention.
- Ask God for the things you need personally (Phil. 4:19; 12 Pet. 1:3; Matt. 6:33; 1 John 5:14-15).
- Intercede (stand in the gap) for others.
- Always remember to thank God for answered prayers.
- Leave time for God to speak to you personally.

V. Here are a few important final remarks.

- It is important to have a balanced quiet time.
- Be alert for opportunities to apply in your life what you are learning in your quiet time. James 1:22
 - Stay in prayerful contact with God throughout the entire day (Luke 18:1).
 - Provide time during the week to allow deeper study of the Word and more intensive prayer.

Summary:

At first, it might seem like a task or duty to set aside time for prayer and Bible study, but as you begin this new discipline, it will soon evolve into a delightful part of your day. You will find yourself learning to hear His voice and experiencing His guidance and direction for your journey of faith.