

Lesson 2 – The Greatest Book

INTRODUCTION

In the first lesson we discovered that one of the most important aspects of a growing relationship with Jesus Christ is a proper understanding of God. Another important aspect of a growing relationship with Jesus Christ is a proper understanding of the Bible. This lesson will help us understand the significance of the Bible to our relationship with Jesus Christ.

IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

There are many opinions about whether the Bible is true or not. Some people think it's partly true. Other people think many of the stories in it are a myth. Read the following verses and identify where the Bible came from and how we got it?

2 Timothy 3:16

2 Peter 1:20-21

The Bible claims to be inspired. Inspired or "God-breathed" means that God spoke through the writers of the Bible to communicate absolute truth to us. Although the exact method is unknown, the entire Bible is God's thoughts given to us through people. Because the Bible came from God, you can be certain it's true.

WHY SHOULD I READ THE BIBLE?

A lot of people say the Bible is outdated or irrelevant. Yet many people have never read an entire chapter of the Bible. Read the following list of subjects. If you think the subject is outdated, mark it with an "I" for irrelevant. If the subject is relevant today, mark it with an "R" for relevant.

___ *marriage*

___ *addictions*

___ *sex outside of marriage*

___ *forgiving others*

___ *money management*

___ *dating*

___ *handling stress*

___ *family relationships*

___ *time management*

It may surprise you that each of these subjects is addressed in the Bible. The more you read the Bible, the more insight you will find regarding the issues and challenges you're facing.

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There are numerous benefits to reading the Bible. Read the following verses and identify as many benefits of Bible reading as you can.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Joshua 1:8

Romans 15:4

James 1:22-25

Many items we purchase come with an expiration date. You can be certain you won't find an expiration date on your Bible! Everything in the Bible is relevant for us today and throughout our lives.

HOW CAN I GET TO KNOW THE BIBLE?

Read the following verses and identify some of the ways we can get to know the Bible.

Colossians 4:16

Psalms 119:11

2 Timothy 2:15

When most of us hear the word *study* it produces a negative connotation. However, when we study something, we learn and discover facts about it. Studying the Bible involves a process of learning that includes *observation, interpretation, and application*. Read the following verses and identify what you observe, can interpret, or apply?

Psalms 1:1-3

CONCLUSION

Getting to know the Bible is more than just reading words on a page or learning facts about a subject. The Bible reveals the truth about Jesus Christ. So as we get to know the Bible, we're really getting to know Jesus.

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HOMEWORK

In this lesson, we discovered that the Bible is an important part of a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Your homework this week is to spend a few minutes reading the Bible, using the method below.

Read James 1:1-4 and complete the following sentences:

One thing God could be saying to me through these verses is . . .

As I think about the next 24 hours, one way I could obey this is . . .

Make this a matter of prayer by giving God a written request for help and a written thank you for showing you what He wants you to do.

Dear God, help me to . . .

Dear God, thank You for . . .

Duplicate these steps every day this week using the book of James. If you miss a day, don't worry – just try again the next day.

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Read James 1:5-8 and complete the following sentences:

One thing God could be saying to me through these verses is . . .

As I think about the next 24 hours, one way I could obey this is . . .

Dear God, help me to . . .

Dear God, thank You for . . .

Read James 1:9-12 and complete the following sentences:

One thing God could be saying to me through these verses is . . .

As I think about the next 24 hours, one way I could obey this is . . .

Dear God, help me to . . .

Dear God, thank You for . . .

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HOMEWORK

Read James 1:13-18 and complete the following sentences:

One thing God could be saying to me through these verses is . . .

As I think about the next 24 hours, one way I could obey this is . . .

Dear God, help me to . . .

Dear God, thank You for . . .

Read James 1:19-21 and complete the following sentences:

One thing God could be saying to me through these verses is . . .

As I think about the next 24 hours, one way I could obey this is . . .

Dear God, help me to . . .

Dear God, thank You for . . .

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HOMEWORK

Read James 1:22-25 and complete the following sentences:

One thing God could be saying to me through these verses is . . .

As I think about the next 24 hours, one way I could obey this is . . .

Dear God, help me to . . .

Dear God, thank You for . . .

Read James 1:26-27 and complete the following sentences:

One thing God could be saying to me through these verses is . . .

As I think about the next 24 hours, one way I could obey this is . . .

Dear God, help me to . . .

Dear God, thank You for . . .