

LEADING THE WAY

Way of Life - a pattern for Christian Living

Journeying IN Reading - God's Word



“Well. Bridget Macaulay. Used with permission

Participants’ Notes.



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* **Beginning where we are**

Your group leader will open the Bible at Psalm 119:18 and place it on a table and then lead a prayer.

Merciful God, anoint us with your Holy Spirit.

As we read your word, let us hear your voice speaking from within.

Give us wisdom to understand your message to us.

Let your word be the joy of our hearts and the lamp to our feet.

Give us strength to build our lives on your word.

May we rejoice and be blessed in hearing your word and keeping it.

Speak Lord, your servants are listening...

Praise you Lord. Amen

* **Icebreaker**

Think about the following 2 questions. Then discuss your answers with your neighbour.

⇒ If you could perform miracles, what would you do?

⇒ What is your favourite book of the Bible? Why?

* **Introduction**

The leader will read a short précis from 'Reading the Bible' a Simple Guide' - please take the leaflet home and read it further.

*** Bible ‘conversation’**

Prayer

Holy Spirit of God;

open our ears and our minds, our hearts and our spirits,

that we may hear you speaking to us

through these words of Scripture.

May we be ready to be encouraged and challenged,
guided and changed.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

⇒ **Bible Text**

Psalm 119:103-106

How sweet are your words to my taste,

sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ I gain understanding from your precepts;

therefore I hate every wrong path.

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet,

a light on my path.

¹⁰⁶ I have taken an oath and confirmed it,

that I will follow your righteous laws.

2 Timothy 3 10-17

¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving

and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

*Notes

* Questions

- Personal

‘Bible reading is one of the building blocks of our ‘Journey IN’, and the core text through which Christians encounter God’s wisdom and guidance.’ Reading the Bible - a Simple Guide.

⇒ How easy do I find it to read my Bible regularly? What are the difficulties I encounter?

⇒ Where do I find helpful input, clarification or encouragement?

- ⇒ What might help me to ‘encounter God’s wisdom and guidance.’ and then act upon what I have learnt? For example keeping a journal, talking with a friend, starting a blog etc.
- ⇒ Can I prayerfully identify someone with whom I might meet, on a regular basis, to read and discuss the Bible?
- ⇒ What personal incentive do I have for growth?

- **Congregational.**

‘Bible reading and study..... leads to growth and maturity in a Christians life.’ Reading the Bible—A Simple Guide.

⇒ In what ways do we explore and share the Bible as a congregation?

⇒ What opportunities do we regularly make available to study and learn together?

⇒ How seriously do we take developing ourselves as disciples?

⇒ Many have been engaged in study groups that help us grow as disciples (e.g. Alpha, Emmaus, Living Faith, Pilgrim). How do such courses help us to grow as the body of Christ where we are? Are there any such courses running at present or planned for the near future?

- **Community**

⇒ What would it be like for the church to make more knowledge and learning regarding faith and spirituality available to others?

⇒ Is there a fear that means people are not confident in their knowledge to come to learn and share their thoughts regarding faith and spirituality? If so, how might confidence be grown?

⇒ How might our understanding of the Bible enable us to engage with, speak into and serve our communities as Christians?

*** Prayer**

All that has been done in this session will be drawn together in prayer. This prayer can be found on the front of 'Reading the Bible - a Simple Guide' but may be used responsively by your leader in the following way;

Lord, inspire us to read your Scriptures

and to meditate upon them day and night.

We beg you to give us real understanding of what we need,

that we in turn may put its precepts into practice.

Yet we know that understanding and good intentions are worthless,

unless rooted in your graceful love.

So we ask that the words of Scripture may also be not just signs on a page, but channels of grace into our hearts.

Amen

* Other Resources

There are lots of resources designed to help us in reading and understanding the Bible, the following is just a selection:

- * “IN 2 The Bible” 2017 Bishop’s Lent Challenge
(<http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/in2thebible./>).

Leading the Way is a resource produced by the Diocese of Truro Discipleship Team. It is designed to help individuals, congregations and communities to explore the way of life which will enable them to flourish in Jesus Christ.