

ROOTED IN FAITH



REVELATION

week 3

DAILY GUIDE

CONROE CAMPUS
THE WOODLANDS HILLS CAMPUS

INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE



WEEK 3: REVELATION

I
DAY

► READ

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. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)



TODAY'S THOUGHT

There have been many great books, articles, podcasts, sermons and speeches that have inspired multitudes of people over the years. Just think about how Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech inspired a nation and continues to generations later. But when it comes to the "inspiration" of Holy Scripture, we are talking about a different kind of inspiration. The Bible is more than a book with good storytelling or powerful words or principles that touch our hearts. It is alive and active today through God's Spirit. God is the Author of scripture, and because of this, the Bible speaks truth in a way that no other text can. While God used humans to write the Bible, God, through the Holy Spirit, directed and oversaw the message it contains. Therefore, we can trust the Bible to tell us the truth about who God is, our need for salvation, and how God wants us to live our lives.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, God spoke through the biblical writers to give us everything that is necessary for salvation. God preserved His mighty acts of deliverance for his people through Moses, and through the prophets we see God's picture of a holy and just world. He gave us psalms of praise and thanksgiving through David and the heavenly wisdom of Solomon. We hear God speaking to us through Jesus in the gospels and later through the apostles' writings contained in the New Testament.

The culminating effect of what we have in this collection of sacred texts is a divinely inspired, true story, about God's saving work through a continuous community of faith spanning over the course of human history. We see the loving heart of God, who desperately wants to be in relationship with his people. We see case study after case study for how to respond to God in a way that demonstrates loyalty, obedience and gratitude (and often what failure to do so leads to). This is the intended purpose of the Bible. It's not a science book to give us the final word on matters of creation, nor a puzzle for us to solve about the end times, or even just a book of good moral principles to govern our lives. The Bible is the main avenue by which we encounter the living God, get to know Him, and learn of His good plan for our lives.

REFLECT

- What is your understanding of the origin and purpose of the Bible?
- How have you experienced the Bible as living and active, able to shape and form you?

INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE



WEEK 3: REVELATION

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DAY
D



PRAYER

Prayer Focus: to encounter the “Author” of the Bible every time you read and study it.



CATECHISM

Go deeper by exploring the catechism of the Global Methodist Church. The catechism covers our core doctrines as outlined in the Nicene Creed, as well as core beliefs related to our Wesleyan heritage. Like most catechisms, it teaches the faith through a series of short question and answer statements. Throughout these devotionals, we will systematically cover all of the GMC catechism. For an extra challenge, try memorizing the catechism statements in this section each week to further “root” the essential beliefs of the faith into your heart and mind.

- Where is the truth about salvation to be found? We believe the Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments, reveals the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation.

READING FOR TRANSFORMATION, NOT JUST INFORMATION



WEEK 3: REVELATION

DAY 2

► READ | JAMES 1:21-25

21 So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. 22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.



TODAY'S THOUGHT

Our catechism calls us to receive the Bible as the true rule and guide for faith and practice. That means we approach the Bible to gain knowledge of God and his good purposes for our lives (information), but we also come to the Bible to be formed into who God wants us to be (transformation).

We learn to do the first part— read for information— in school. Study and acquiring information can be natural to some of us and that certainly has great value. However, living out what we know and believe... now that is a whole different matter! It's definitely not easy. God's ways are higher than our ways and often go against our natural inclinations.

Over time, as we prayerfully read the Bible, listen to the promptings and convictions of the Holy Spirit, and commit to doing what God is teaching us, our hearts and lives will be shaped by His word. Approach the scriptures with the aim of transformation and you will experience the power, freedom, and holiness that James says can come from our time spent with God in His Holy Word (James 1:22).

REFLECT

- How does the term "Sunday Christian" —someone who attends church but doesn't give Jesus the other six days— illustrate James' point in James 1:22-24? Conversely, what does the life of someone described in verse 25 look like?
- What is one area of your life where you can better apply God's Word, becoming a doer rather than merely a listener of the Word?



PRAYER

Prayer Focus: to be doers of the Word and not merely hearers.

READING FOR TRANSFORMATION, NOT JUST INFORMATION



WEEK 3: REVELATION

DAY 2



CATECHISM

Go deeper by exploring the catechism of the Global Methodist Church.

- How must we receive Scripture? The Holy Bible is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice.

PRIMACY OF SCRIPTURE



WEEK 3: REVELATION

DAY 3



READ | COLOSSIANS 2:8

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.



TODAY'S THOUGHT

In today's scripture, Paul is battling the heresy of Gnosticism within the Colossian church. This "deceptive philosophy," which emphasized special spiritual knowledge, was contrary to biblical doctrine and was moving the church away from Christ. Paul warns us today that any philosophy of life based only on human ideas and experiences should be suspect. We can combat false teaching by becoming thoroughly acquainted with God's Word through personal study and sound Bible teaching. In other words, scripture must be our primary "measuring stick" for what is true.

The Wesleyan Quadrilateral is a term you may have heard used in the Methodist world. The quadrilateral says there are four things we should use for theological exploration: scripture, reason, experience and tradition. It was created as a tool for biblical interpretation, but has caused problems for many churches. For example, scripture is supposed to be primary, but in many cases, experience and reason have trumped God's Word.

So what is the place of reason and experience? Well, we uphold education and reason while acknowledging any philosophy or idea contrary to scripture, and the consensus of the historic and universal church cannot be embraced. Experience refers to both our personal experience of God and the testimony of the saints before us. Experience is a powerful way in which we experience the real power of the Holy Spirit. We must also be wary of basing our faith off experience alone. Scripture warns us that our heart can be deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9-10). Our emotions can mislead us. Our sinful desires can mislead us. Our broken world can mislead us. All experiences must be filtered through and discerned by a scriptural lens.

Therefore, scripture must be the primary authority in our lives— the rule and measuring stick by which all other truth claims are measured. We must root our faith and practice in Christ and God's Word above all else.

REFLECT

- Have you ever seen a fellow believer mislead by reason, experience or tradition that contradicted plain Christian teaching and doctrine? What about you? If so, what impact did that have on your faith?
- What worldly, unbiblical philosophies are seducing our society today? Our culture? Our children? How can we guard against being taken captive by these philosophies and false teachings?

PRIMACY OF SCRIPTURE



WEEK 3: REVELATION

DAY 3



PRAYER

Prayer Focus: to develop deep roots into Christ and God's Word through regular prayer, Bible study, and worship within the Body of Christ.



CATECHISM

Go deeper by exploring the catechism of the Global Methodist Church.

- Are reason, tradition, or experience sufficient guides for Christian doctrine? No. Whatever is not revealed in or established by the Holy Scriptures is not to be made an article of faith nor is it to be taught as essential to salvation.

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE



WEEK 3: REVELATION

DAY
4

▶ READ | PSALM 1:1-2

- 1 Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.



TODAY'S THOUGHT

If you want to grow spiritually, you must root yourself in God's Word every day. The psalmist suggests day and night, but the time of day is not the sticking point— the goal is to be routinely engaging with God in scripture and prayer. You may feel pressure to read scripture in the morning to start your day, but if you are responsible for getting kids ready for school and yourself to work, that may not be realistic. Instead, maybe what works for you is listening to the Bible while you drive to work— because that's when you have the space and quiet to listen to God's Word and talk to Him through prayer.

When reading scripture, there's the question of "what should I read?" The Bible is a big book and the many choices can make it daunting to figure out which part of the Bible to read from each day. Bible reading plans are always a good place to start. If you're new to the faith, consider starting with one of the gospels, such as John, or a reading plan that will take you through the Bible in a year. Another good option is to follow the daily lectionary, which follows the particular church seasons (Lent, Easter, Advent, etc.), allowing you to read through the story of God's salvation. Like a healthy diet includes a variety of different food groups, the lectionary includes a variety of passages from the Old and New Testaments and from the many different genres of scripture. The YouVersion App is another good resource that you can download on your phone. It has hundreds of Bible reading plans that you can listen to and has access to additional resources like devotions and videos. Bible reading plans vary in intensity and time required, so make sure you choose one that is actually doable for you.

Lastly, you may be wondering, "How should I read the Bible?". When you read, remember that the goal is not just to gain knowledge, but to have a transformed heart and live in obedience. To that aim, these are four questions to ask when reading any passage of scripture so that you can interpret and apply God's Word to your life:

1. What did this passage mean to its original hearers? (*Learn about the historical and cultural context of the writing. You can find this information in a good study Bible. My personal favorite is the Life Application Study Bible*)
2. What part does it play in the Bible's total witness or story? (*the big story of the Bible, and church doctrine and tradition*)
3. What is God saying to my life, my community, my world, through this passage? (*Read slowly and meditatively with an ear to the Spirit's voice.*)
4. What changes should I consider making? (*This is probably the easiest to discern, but the hardest to put into action. Therefore, ask for God's help to live out what he is calling you to do*)

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE



WEEK 3: REVELATION

DAY 4

May you be blessed as you meet with God each day in the Scriptures, delighting in His presence, learning from His ways, and allowing Him to shape and mold your life into the image of Christ.

REFLECT

- What does your current Bible reading routine look like? Is it working for you?
- What is one thing from today's reading that could help you "delight" more deeply in God's Word?



PRAYER

Prayer Focus: to make the spiritual discipline of Bible reading a daily part of your life.



CATECHISM

None

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURES - LECTIO DIVINA



WEEK 3: REVELATION

DAY 5



TODAY'S THOUGHT

Today, we want to introduce you to an ancient Christian tradition called Lectio Divina. This practice is simply a way to read the Bible, slowly, contemplatively, and leisurely, not seeking information, but seeking to listen for the voice of God. Lectio Divina assumes prayer is a two-way conversation and enables us to have a dialogue with Jesus by hearing and responding to the Word of God.

We're used to studying the Bible, analyzing it for truths to understand or mining it for lessons to live out, but we are mostly unschooled in listening to it. The goal of Lectio Divina is to grow in companionship with God, to be a personal participant in the story of God, lovingly listening for God's Word, allowing the text to get into us and transform our lives.



PRAYER

Open your Bible to one of your favorite scriptures, or use Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23. Then, follow the steps below:

1. **Quiet yourself:** Start with a brief period of silence so you can quiet yourself and hear God.
2. **Read and listen:** Then, read the scripture you have selected, preferably aloud and slowly. As you do this, listen for a word, thought, phrase, or image that grabs your attention— that jumps off the page for you. Don't analyze it or study it, but simply receive this word. (Turn aside doubts that God is speaking and trust that God wants to be in conversation with you).
3. **Read again and reflect:** Then read through the same passage again and listen for the way the word connects with your life. Reflect on how God is addressing your life.
4. **Pray:** Next, enter into conversation with God. Honestly offer to Him any feelings this text has brought to the surface in you, any resistance you feel, any comfort you sense. Ask Jesus, "Why did you give me this word today?"
5. **Rest in God's presence:** And then, finally, let this word sink deep into your life. Yield yourself to God's direction and leading; rest in His presence.



CATECHISM

None



ROOTED IN FAITH

Thank you for taking this
Lenten journey with us!

We are so excited that you are participating in the **“Rooted in Faith”** Lenten Devotional series. Lent is the forty-day season that leads up to Easter commemorating the forty days Jesus spent praying and fasting in the desert. It’s a season when we follow in Jesus’ footsteps and enter into a time of intentional spiritual preparation and renewal. We do this so that we can more deeply contemplate the meaning of Christ’s death and resurrection. Christians often engage in this season by practicing spiritual disciplines like prayer, fasting, and self-denial, just like Jesus did in the desert.

Historically, Lent has also been a time of **catechesis**. Catechesis is essentially the process of instructing and forming new disciples in the faith. During Lent, people would devote themselves to learning the core doctrines, practices, and traditions of the faith. They would then be baptized on Easter. Today, there is an effort within the Church to reclaim catechism as an essential tool for making disciples.

That’s why I am so excited that First Methodist Conroe has written a catechism of our own called **“Rooted in Faith”**. Just like a tree must be deeply rooted to provide the stability and nutrients that it needs to grow, our faith must be deeply rooted to thrive. We must be anchored in the truth of God’s Word and the core doctrines of the Church. We must also know how to nurture our connection with Jesus, who gives us the grace and power we need for the Christian life. If we’re not deeply rooted in Christ, when the storms of life come or we are faced with false teachings, our faith can be easily toppled.

As part of “Rooted in Faith”, we are providing multiple ways for you to engage in this discipleship opportunity, which include:

- The **sermon series** throughout Lent will address some common questions people have about the Christian faith. (ie: Is the trinity biblical? Why is there evil? Why did Jesus have to die?)
- The **Daily Devotions** will be expounding upon the catechism of the Global Methodist Church and will provide questions for reflection and prompts for prayer. These daily reflections will be a great resource to use as a companion to both the sermon series and Rooted in Faith Course throughout Lent.
- The **6-week “Rooted in Faith” Course**. The whole family can participate through the age-specific catechism courses for children, youth, and adults. This course is currently at max capacity.

We believe that catechesis is beneficial for people of all ages and in all stages of their faith journey. We are grateful that you are taking advantage of these opportunities to become more deeply rooted in Christ, and to be equipped to live out your faith in the world.

Rev. Bryan Moore, Discipleship Pastor