

Discipleship Tool #2

Reading the Bible to Hear from God

So, How long has it been since you've heard from God?

This may seem like an intimidating or over the top question, but *one of the great lessons of Jesus' life is that we really can hear from God and live out of that reality.* One of the main ways Jesus did this was simply by knowing the Bible really well. He read the Bible and used its truths when He talked to people and made decisions. Jesus didn't simply believe the Bible, His entire life was guided by the scriptures. He understood that to read the Bible was to hear from God.

Reading God's Word is always a powerful thing because when we really want to understand God's Word, God's Spirit will be present helping us to understand. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

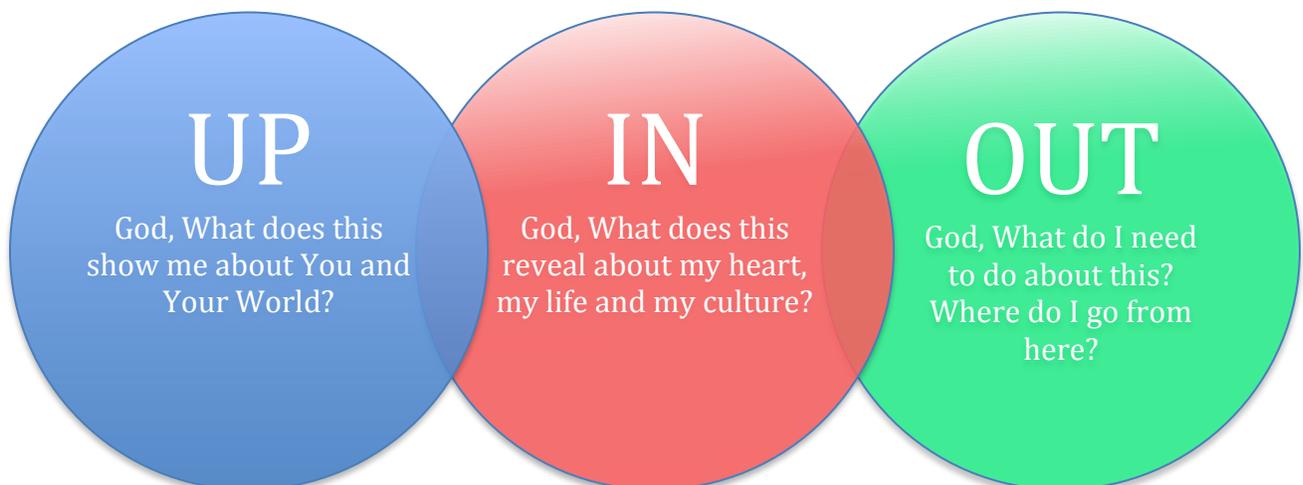
The Bible doesn't just reveal God to us. Like a mirror, it reveals us to us. The Bible helps us see both our beauty and our brokenness. The ways we need Jesus and what it will look like to walk in His grace. (Hebrews 4:11-13, 2 Timothy 3:16) As different as one passage of scripture is from the next, every passage in the Bible offers us the opportunity to have more of the new life Jesus came to give us.

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The rest of this exercise will help you think through how you structure your time reading the Bible. It will also give your Journey group some common language that you can use when reading God's Word together.

UP IN OUT

If scripture really is from God, for us, then, there are certain things we want to spend time doing when we read scripture. We need to use God's Word to look...



Let's Get Started

This page will help you focus your time in God's word. These questions can also form a simple group discussion guide for any passage of scripture. Consider practicing this way of reading scripture together as a group.

UP - God, what does this scripture show me about You and Your world?

Focus of your reading: knowledge and understanding

What are the main ideas in this passage? Read the verses before and after for context.
What would this passage have meant to its first recipients?
What does this passage reveal about God?
What in this passage intrigues you?
Ask: Why would God want to reveal these things to me?

Goal: to understand the truth being taught in this scripture.

IN - God, what does this passage show me about my heart, life & culture?

Focus of your reading: personal/heart oriented

What does this passage reveal about humanity, believers and me?
What does this passage reveal about relationship with God?
What does this passage reveal about living as God's people?
Where is the challenge or encouragement in this passage?
What would my life look like if I believed this teaching were true?
How does my culture distort or reject this truth? How does that affect me?
Take a minute. Read it through again. How is God's Spirit speaking to you?

Goal: to have the opportunity for God to reveal truth about you and your life to you.

OUT - God, what do I need to do about this?

Focus of your reading: response/action oriented

What is the truth here that I most need to remember?
What do I need to change in order to realign my heart with this truth?
What truths here do I need to keep reflecting on in the hours/days ahead?
Is there anything here that is relevant to the day (or days) ahead?
Is there anything here that you need to talk with someone about?
Take some time to pray about these things and what lies ahead.

Goal: To conclude your time with God more ready to grow with Jesus this week.