

DISCIPLEU

OASIS CHURCH

EXPLORING SCRIPTURE

LEARNING GOAL

QUIET TIME METHOD

ENTER, IMPRESS, PRAY, LIVE METHOD

S.O.A.P. METHOD

RANSOM METHOD


"ALL SCRIPTURE IS BREATHED OUT BY GOD AND PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, AND FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE COMPETENT, EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK."
2 Timothy 3:16-17
PHOTO BY AARON BURDEN ON UNSPLASH

Exploring Scripture

Learning Goal
The Bible is God's inspired word to the world. It is imperative for disciples of Jesus Christ to be able to read and understand scripture.
This will lead to greater application of the word of God in our lives.
This study will present a few methods for reading and understanding scripture.

Truths to be learned

1. God has given us his Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of scripture to us.
2. This truth informs us about our relationship with God.
3. Consistent reading, understanding, and application of scripture will lead to a more fruitful Christian life.

Disciplines, Habits, and Lifestyle
DiscipleU is about more than simply the transfer of information.
Our intent is for you to develop a lifestyle of following Jesus well, becoming more Christlike in all of life, and a deepening relationship with God.

This happens by developing disciplines that become habits, and eventually a lifestyle.
Discipline - "intentionally" doing the things we want to do.
Habit - "usually" doing the right things.
Lifestyle - "naturally" doing the right things.

What this looks like for this learning experience:
Discipline - Develop a consistent Bible reading plan.
Habits - Regularly use one or more of the methods presented in this learning to get the most out of Bible reading.
Lifestyle - Scripture will form our beliefs, values, and behavior.


“The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home.”
AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

THE QUIET TIME METHOD

InterVarsity Press

How does it work?

When reading scripture ask yourselves the following questions:

1. Is there any example for me to follow?
2. Is there any command for me to obey?
3. Is there any error for me to avoid?
4. Is there any sin for me to forsake?
5. Is there any promise for me to claim?
6. Is there any new thought about God Himself?

Read Matthew 6:19-34

Let's apply the 6 questions from the Quiet Time Method:

1. Is there any example for me to follow?

2. Is there any command for me to obey?

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6. Is there any new thought about God Himself?

Never leave any time spent in God's word without first praying into what you've read!

ENTER, IMPRESS, PRAY, LIVE METHOD

How does it work?

First Reading: Enter
As you read a passage of scripture for the first time you are simply "entering in" or familiarizing yourself with what God is saying here. Notice the circumstances, people, places, etc.

Second Reading: Impress
As you read the same passage for the second time, notice what word, phrase, sentence or verse makes an "impression" upon you.

Third Reading: Pray
As you read this passage of scripture for the third time through, begin by spending a few moments in prayer thanking and praising God for His Holy Word. As you read, be prayerfully interacting with God about the text.

Fourth Reading: Live
In this final reading of the passage ask God to show you how He wants you to live based on this scripture. Is there something He would have you start doing, stop doing or continue doing?

Read Romans 12:9-21
Let's apply this method of exploring scripture:

Enter

Impress

Pray

Live


Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
PSALM 119:105

S.O.A.P METHOD

How does it work?

S – The S stands for Scripture Read a passage. Then choose 1-2 verses and write them out word for word. (There is no right or wrong choice – just let the Holy Spirit guide you.)

O – The O stands for Observation Look at the verse or verses you wrote out. Write 1 or 2 observations. What stands out to you? What do you learn about the character of God from these verses? Is there a promise, command or teaching?

A – The A stands for Application Personalize the verses. What is God saying to you? How can you apply them to your life? Are there any changes you need to make or an action to take?

P – The P stands for Prayer Pause, and pray. Confess any sin God has revealed to you today. Praise God for His word. Pray the passage over your own life or someone you love. Ask God to help you live out your applications.

Read Psalm 46
Let's apply the SOAP method:

Scripture (write out 1-2 verses word for word)

Observation

Application

Prayer

THE RANSOM BIBLE STUDY METHOD

The RANSOM Bible Study Method is a simple six-step process reflected in the word RANSOM that functions as an acrostic, where each letter of the word stands for an action to take as you read the Scripture.

R : READ
A : ASK
N : NOTE
S : SUMMARIZE
O : OBEY
M : MEDITATE

READ
Begin by reading a passage of Scripture slowly. Then read it multiple times to become familiar with the passage. Whether you are starting in the Book of Genesis, the Gospel of John, Paul's Letter to the Philippians, or one of King David's Psalms, determine how much you will read in one sitting, and then commit yourself to that passage.
If you are starting a study through an entire book of the Bible it is a good practice to first read the entire book in one sitting if possible. This will help the reader see the big picture and some of the main emphases within that portion of Scripture. After that, for daily readings, take it one chapter, or scene, or paragraph at a time, and the read the passage three or four times.
Some people find it helpful to write out the passage by hand and even memorize a key verse.

ASK
One of the most important things you can do when reading the Bible is to ask it questions. You shouldn't expect an audible voice to come down from heaven with an answer, because the answer is already given in the Word God sent down from heaven in the book you have before you.
Some of the questions you should be asking of the passage of Scripture you are studying are:
• What does this passage tell us about the person and work of God?
• What does this passage tell us about human nature and the world we live in?
• What commands are explicitly or implicitly given?

THE RANSOM BIBLE STUDY METHOD

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Some of the questions you should be asking of the passage of Scripture you are studying are:

- What does this passage tell us about the person and work of God?
- What does this passage tell us about human nature and the world we live in?
- What commands are explicitly or implicitly given?
- What sin is highlighted or condemned?
- Is this passage revealing God's commands or God's promises?
- How does this passage connect to the whole of Scripture?
- How does this passage demonstrate the need for a Savior?
- How does this passage relate to the person and work of Jesus Christ?

Many more questions can be asked, but these are some of the foundational questions we should be thinking through as we read the Bible.

NOTE

As you read the Scripture that is before you, note the main idea, key or repeated words, and prominent doctrines being emphasized. This will be easier as you work through the answers to the questions you have been asking of the text.

A helpful habit at this point is to grab a pencil and write out what you are observing. In other words, you should literally "take notes." Whether you use an inexpensive spiral notebook, or an expensive leather-bound journal, what matters is writing things down.

SUMMARIZE

At this point in your reading of a passage of Scripture, it is good to summarize the main idea of the passage in your own words. This sounds easier than it really is. Take your time and work at boiling the main idea down to one brief sentence. You will wind up reworking this summary throughout all six steps. Again, the value of journaling cannot be overstated. Writing down what you are learning forces you to articulate things clearly which will help you better understand the Bible, and later on better communicate the knowledge of God you have gained.

THE RANSOM BIBLE STUDY METHOD

OBEY

This is where your study of Scripture gets very personal. It's one thing to ask of the passage, "Is there a command to be obeyed, or a sin to be forsaken?" It is something else to ask yourself what would obedience to this passage look like in your life? Where do you fall short in what is commanded? How is the sin depicted here present in your life?

It is often said, "God has not given us his Word for our information, but for our transformation." Part of the process of transformation is identifying what God is calling us to do in response to what we read in his Word. Where do you need to repent, and how do you need to obey? What does this passage call you to believe? Why do you tend to doubt? To respond to God's Word in faith and repentance specifically is what it means to receive the Word. You were given this book to not merely read it, but to receive it. This is the act of obedience.

MEDITATE

It is important to be in the Word, and to be in the Word often. But it is even more important to keep the Word in you, and to keep it in you always. You may only have enough time for a few minutes in the Scripture on a given day, but what you read can be taken with you throughout the day through the ongoing work of meditation.

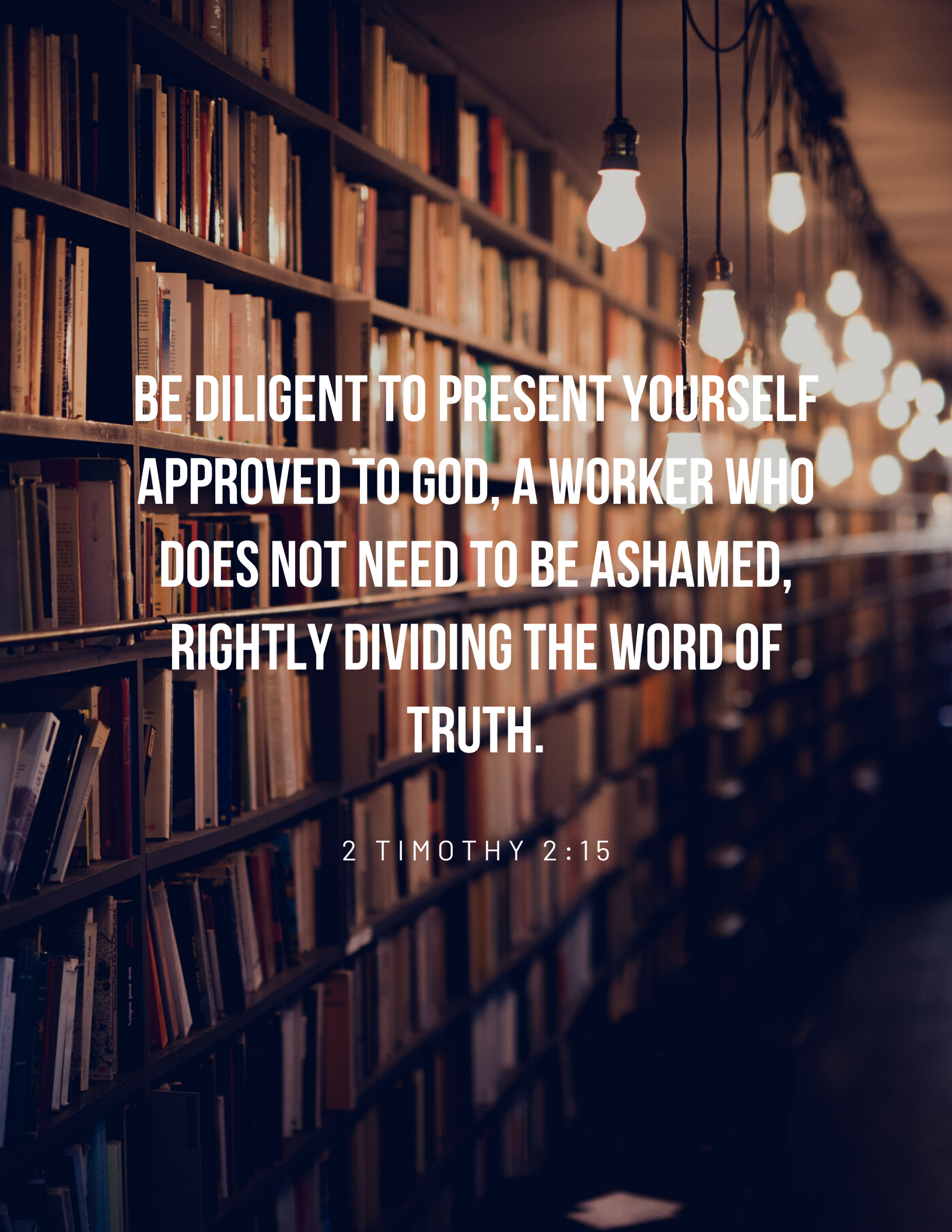
To meditate on the Scripture is to revisit the passage, your questions, the answers, and the central truths of the passage as you go about your day. Some will open their Bibles or their Bible apps while on break at work or in between tasks at home. Some will work on memorization. In all of this, what is emphasized is the work of deep and ongoing thought concerning the very Word of God that you have read and received.

CONCLUSION

The RANSOM Bible Study Method is simple, but not easy. Bible study is hard work because it is heart work. You must wrestle with your own doubts, sins, fears, and questions as you are confronted with God's character, works, laws, promises, and answers.

We hope this simple approach to the Scripture will serve as a means of your personal and deep investment in the Word of God so that you may know the Lord and make him known in your life.

By Joe Thorn and Jimmy Fowler
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BE DILIGENT TO PRESENT YOURSELF APPROVED TO GOD, A WORKER WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH.
2 TIMOTHY 2:15