

SERMON TITLE: Community Bible Reading
SCRIPTURE: Psalm 19:7-11, Hebrews 3:12-14, Colossians 3:16

DATE: December 29, 2019
PASTOR: Matt Rexford

1. Reading the Bible for yourself is absolutely critical to growing in your faith.

An overview of Psalm 19:7-11

The Word is God's law, God's testimony, God's precepts, God's commands, God's fear, God's rules. This Word is perfect, comprehensive, sure, right, clear, clean, and true. It totally transforms people on the inside—in their soul—and it makes the easily misled (all of us) skilled in aspects of living because we grow in wisdom. The Word produces a joy for all of life, not just the easy parts. And it brings light to the dark things and the hard things. The Word never fails because it has and will always endure, and it brings about true life change, transformation.

2. The Christian life was designed to be experienced together, not alone.

Our current relationships powerfully shape us. Not only do we morph into the likeness of our community over time, but Hebrews 3:12-14 also teaches that we need an active Gospel community every day to remain faithful and that if we live in isolation from other believers, our hearts can become deceived by sin and hardened to the gospel very quickly. We are called to "exhort one another" every day. We need to strongly encourage each other to confidently believe all that we have in Christ on a daily basis.

Reading the Bible is not about achievement. It's about engagement with God.

The CBR (Community Bible Reading) Journal puts all of these thoughts together. It is a tool designed to help you connect with God and others every day. This year, the church leadership is inviting you to read one New Testament chapter Monday through Friday and a Psalm on Saturday. We are calling you to form a simple CBR group and take your Bible reading one step further by sharing what impacted you with your group.

Colossians 3:16 says "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing, psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

Discussion Starters:

- *How has your Bible reading been in the past year? What factors have caused you to neglect the Word?*
- *Do you have an achievement edge as you approach the Bible? Why?*
- *Are you tempted to think you can manage to grow in your Christian life by yourself?*
- *Who comes to mind when forming a CBR group? Take action and ask them if they would be willing to join with you this year.*