

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 1—READ IT (JASON STRAND)
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text
GET THE MESSAGE



Introduction

We want people to engage God's word. The following discussion guide is meant to catalyze your Bible reading. Whether you have been reading God's word for decades, or if you are new to your faith, we pray that God will stir in you a desire to engage scripture.

THREE PRINCIPLES TO GET YOU READING THE BIBLE:

1. Have a time, place, and plan: SAP method. Read a chapter a day. Start small and let it grow.
2. Know the context: Not all interpretations are equal.
3. Ask questions:
Why did He use that word?
What does this verse teach me about who Jesus was?
How does God want me to apply this to my life?
What is God trying to teach me through this verse?

Discussion Questions

1. Read **Romans 12:2**. What does it mean to become a new person? Why does it tell us to "let God transform us?" Why does this verse focus on how we think?
2. Read **Hebrews 4:12-13 (NLT)**. How does God reveal our innermost thoughts and desires? Read **James 1:14-15**. Why is it important to change our desires? Discuss an innermost thought or desire that God's word has exposed to you lately and what you plan to do about it.
3. Read **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. Since all scripture is inspired by God or "God breathed," is it all equally applicable? Do some verses matter more? Discuss what God says is most important and why in **Mark 12:31, Galatians 5:14, Matthew 22:36-39, Romans 13:8, James 2:8** and **Romans 13:9**.
4. Read **James 1:21-26** What does this tell people to do?
5. Read **Proverbs 2:3-5**. What would your life look like if you truly embraced this verse? One of the take-aways from the message was to "Ask Questions" when you read the Bible. How might this help you embrace this Proverb? Would you describe your Bible reading as passive, or more like the proverb?
6. Start the "Read Your Bible" plan today by starting in LUKE. Read a chapter every day till Christmas (and after). In your small group or family, pair up with one person and commit to notify each other every time you sit down to read your Bible. Help encourage each other and spur each other along to read God's word every day. Read **Hebrews 10:24-25**.

THINK ABOUT IT

How we spend our time communicates our priorities to God. Throughout our life, we allow our time to be taken up with lots of things, which in themselves aren't evil or wrong, but easily become a barrier in our relationship with God. In Matthew 6:33, it says to "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." So boldly spend time reading God's word; do whatever it takes to come to church on the weekends; overcome every barrier to be in a small group; and don't wait any longer to use yourself to serve others by volunteering on the weekends.

