

40 DAYS *in the* WORD

LOVE the Word. **LEARN** the Word. **LIVE** the Word.

Workbook



40 DAYS *in the* **WORD**

LOVE *the Word.* **LEARN** *the Word.* **LIVE** *the Word.*

© 2018 Christ Place Church
1111 Old Cheney Rd., Lincoln, NE 68512
ChristPlace.Church

Content is for private home use only.

Note from Pastor Rick

Welcome to 40 Days in the Word. I am so excited that you decided to join me in this adventure. I am convinced that there is no other habit or discipline that can do more to transform your life and make you more like Jesus, than to study and act upon God's word.

I want to thank Rick Warren and Saddleback Church for providing us the template and content for such a rich small group study. And I echo Rick's heartfelt goal that at the end of our forty days you will...

- Love the Word of God like you've never loved it before
- Learn the Word of God like you've never learned it before
- Live the Word of God like you've never lived it before

God's word is not merely informational but it's also transformational! To know the Bible is useless if we fail to internalize it and put it into practice. The apostle James says if we want our lives to be blessed by God, we must become "doers of the word" and not merely "hearers." The Psalmist understood the blessings associated with God's word when he said, *"That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers."* (Psalm 1:3 NIV)

Jesus says both knowing and applying the Word creates the foundation for our lives: *"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock"* (Matthew 7:24 NIV). In order to become Christlike, we must become living translations of God's Word.

God's Word is not like any other book. It is alive. When we agree with Scripture, we invite God to do what only He can. Agreement is the place where God's word becomes activated in our lives. This means the Bible must become the highest authority in your life. In other words, God's word must always have the first and last word in your life.

My hope is that the next forty days will become the most important days of your life as you love, learn, and live God's Word!

Rick Warren



USING YOUR WORKBOOK

Our desire is that every day you and your group fall deeper in love with Jesus. This workbook is designed to help everyone grow deeper in their understanding and knowledge of God through reading the Word of God. You'll also be challenged to put your faith into practice!

Here's a brief explanation of the features of this workbook.



CATCHING UP: You'll open each Connect Group meeting with a few questions to help focus everyone's attention on the theme of the session.

MEMORY VERSE: Each week you'll find a different key Bible verse for your group to memorize together. If someone in the group has a different translation, ask them to read it aloud so the group can get a bigger picture of the meaning of the passage.



VIDEO LESSON: There is a Video Lesson for the group to watch together each week. Fill in the blanks in your workbook as you watch the video.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS: Following each video lesson, you'll find questions for Connect Group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer every question or rush through them. Give everyone ample opportunity to share their thoughts. If you don't get through all of the discussion questions, that's okay.



LIVE IT OUT: The Local Missions Project is a practical outreach initiative for yourself, your group or both. As followers of Jesus, we want to be hearers and doers of the Word. This is an exercise that will help your group put the Word of God into practice.



GROUP PRAYER: At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of Connect Group life. Please don't take it for granted.



DAILY TIME: This section contains daily instructions that will enable you to practice the Devotional Study Methods from each week. Over the course of the 40 Days in the Word Series, we'll spend time reading and reflecting on Philippians, Mark, James and Psalm 1. Feel free to use this workbook or a journal of your own to record your thoughts.

A TIP FOR THE HOST/FACILITATOR: The group discussion material is meant to be your servant, not your master. The point is not to race through the sessions; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives. Nor is it necessary to “go around the circle” before you move on to the next question. Give people the freedom to speak, but don’t insist on it. Your group will enjoy deeper, more open sharing and discussion if people don’t feel pressured to speak up.



40 DAYS *in the* **WORD**

LOVE the Word. **LEARN** the Word. **LIVE** the Word.

SESSION 1

“Pronounce it!”

?? CATCHING UP

If you're meeting for the first time, go around the circle and introduce yourselves. Have each person share an interesting fact about him/herself and answer the following questions:

- When did you receive your first Bible?
- What are you hoping to get out of this series?

MEMORY VERSE: *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.* Colossians 3:16a (NIV)

Watch SESSION ONE now and take notes in your workbook or journal.

▶ VIDEO LESSON 1: *Pronounce It!*

The Bible is living and active and has the ability to transform us in ways that go beyond our understanding. The more time we spend with God and reading His Word, the more we can grow in our knowledge and understanding of Him. However, God wants us to be both hearers and doers of the Word. We need to share the message of Jesus not only by what we say, but by how we live out our lives on a day to day basis.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

The ultimate purpose of the Bible is to

Basic Principles of Bible Study

1. Ask the _____.
2. Write down _____.
3. Don't just interpret it, _____.
4. Study it _____.
5. Read it _____.

You can summarize the devotional study method in one word:

_____.

Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

Oh, how I love Your law! I meditate on it all day long. Psalm 119:97 (NIV) .

Biblical meditation is essentially thought digestion. Another word for biblical meditation is “rumination.” Rumination is what a cow does when it chews its cud. Scriptural meditation is reading a passage over and over again, then thinking about it and concentrating on it in different ways until you have digested its meaning.

The Pronounce It! Method of Bible Study

Read the verse over and over again. After each time, emphasize a different word or phrase. After each word or phrase, stop and write down your thoughts. *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.* Colossians 3:16a (NIV)

- **LET** the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
- Let the **WORD** of Christ dwell in you richly.
- Let the word of **CHRIST** dwell in you richly.
- Let the word of Christ **DWELL** in you richly.
- Let the word of Christ dwell **IN** you richly.
- Let the word of Christ dwell in **YOU** richly.
- Let the word of Christ dwell in you **RICHLY**.

Now look at your life through the lens of this verse.

How does this truth apply to you right now? What are you going to do about it?

After you have thought about an application, write it down.

Then finish your time by talking to God about what he said to you in his Word. Remember this... Your time in daily devotions is not just for your benefit. It's also for the benefit of others.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

What stood out to you the most from the video session?

In this time together, we'll go over the **Pronounce It!** Bible study method. As a group, practice the **Pronounce It!** method using the first part of Colossians 3:15: *And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.*

Take turns reading out the Scripture emphasizing different parts of this verse. Try reading it in a different translation.

What word or phrases stood out to you the most? Why?

Why do we often find it difficult to slow down and meditate on God's Word?

How does this verse apply to your life right now? What do you need to do, or stop doing, in order to let the word of Christ dwell in you richly?

Spend some time sharing with each other about what God has revealed to you from His Word.



LIVE IT OUT

Local Missions Project

As a group, practice the **Pronounce It!** method on Micah 6:8.

Take turns reading through this verse putting your emphasis on different words or phrases.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 (NIV)

- What word or phrases stood out to you the most?
- What does this verse mean to you?
- As followers of Jesus, what can we do to put this verse into practice?

In James 1:22 it says: *But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.*

The Christian life is more than Biblical study, we want to be doers of the Word as well. That's what the **Local Missions Project** is all about.

Over the next 40 days, we want to encourage your group to think about, plan, and carry out an outreach project. What you do is up to you. You don't have to make a decision today, but get started by thinking about some possibilities together.

Your project will become a major focus for your group over the next 40 days. Here's how you can get started. Recruit a group member to lead the **Local Missions Project**. This person will help keep moving everything forward.

Our **Local Missions Project Lead** is: _____

Review the **Local Missions Projects** examples and ideas provided by your group leader. What ideas stood out to you the most?

Your Project Lead can report back to the group at your next meeting.

Note: Feel free to share your own ideas for the Local Missions Project. During this series, we would love to hear how your projects are going. Email us info@christplace.church.



GROUP PRAYER

Pray for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life. Pray for God's direction for your group's Local Missions Project.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for writing prayer requests and sharing what God is doing in one's life.

40 DAYS *in the* **WORD**

LOVE the Word. **LEARN** the Word. **LIVE** the Word.



DAILY TIME

Days 1-7: Pronounce It!

Scripture Reading: Philippians

Week One Memory Verse: Colossians 3:16a

During 40 Days in the Word, you'll read about one chapter a day in the Bible. Read at your own pace, but we suggest you apply each week's method of Bible study to that day's recommended verse or passage.

This week in your daily time, we will be reading through Philippians. Don't rush through the Scripture readings. It's important to slow down and learn what it means to meditate on Scripture. Let the Word of God speak to your spirit. You may be surprised at what God will say.

As you read the Scripture for each day, practice the **Pronounce It!** method on the recommended verse. Write down your thoughts and learn to listen to the Holy Spirit within you. Think about how each verse can impact what you say and do.

If you miss a day, don't feel discouraged. Just start on the current day and move forward.

DAY 1



Pronounce it!

Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word or phrase to write down your thoughts.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 2



Pronounce it!

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Philippians 1:27a (NIV)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word or phrase to write down your thoughts.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 3



Pronounce it!

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word or phrase to write down your thoughts.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 4



Pronounce it!

... I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Philippians 3:12b (NIV)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word or phrase to write down your thoughts.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 5



Pronounce it!

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word or phrase to write down your thoughts.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 6



Pronounce it!

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word or phrase to write down your thoughts.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 7



Pronounce it!

My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word or phrase to write down your thoughts.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

SESSION 2

“Picture It!”

?? CATCHING UP

Share an insight from your daily devotional that you gained from Philippians by using the **Pronounce It!** method.

What’s your favorite book turned into a movie? Would you rather read the book or see the movie?

MEMORY VERSE: *Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in Your law.* Psalm 119:18 (NIV)

Watch SESSION TWO now and take notes in your workbook or journal.

▶ VIDEO LESSON 2: *Picture It!*

Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

Privileges of a Quiet Time

1. We give _____ to God.
2. We get _____ from God.

Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Saviour, and my hope is in You all day long. Psalm 25:4-5 (NIV)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

3. We gain _____ in God.

You fill me with joy in Your presence. Psalm 16:11 (NIV)

I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Philippians 3:8 (NIV)

4. We grow _____ God.

Key Ingredients of a Quiet Time

1. Start with the proper _____.

The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

Come with _____.

Come with _____.

Come with _____.

Come with _____.

2. Select a specific _____.

The best time is when you're _____.

3. Choose a special _____.

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him. Luke 22:39 (NIV)

4. Follow a simple _____.

How to have a Quiet Time

1. Wait _____.

2. Pray _____.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV)

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in Your law. Psalm 119:18 (NIV)

3. Read _____.

4. _____ and _____ a verse.

5. Write down _____.
6. Have _____.

Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

The “Picture It!” Method of Bible Study

This method works best when you’re reading a narrative passage, story, or parable.

Picture the biblical scene in your mind. See yourself as one of the people in the story. Ask yourself, “How would I feel if I were involved in this situation? What would I say? What would I do?”

Then see yourself as a different character in the story and ask yourself the same questions again.

Ask yourself, “With whom in the story do I identify most clearly, and how does their situation resonate with my life right now? What is God trying to say to me? What does He want me to do?”

Then take a few minutes to write down your thoughts, observations, questions, and any steps you need to take.

Scripture comes alive to you and you see it in a whole new way.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

What stood out to you the most from the video session?

In our time together, we are going to be going over the Picture It! Bible study method. Practice the **Picture It!** method of Bible study, using the story of the paralytic from Mark 2:1-12.

Together, open your Bibles and read from Mark 2:1-12.

Which of the people in the story do you most identify with?

Work your way through each of these scenarios:

Picture yourself as the man on the mat . . .

- What emotions or feelings come to mind?
- What are you thinking about?
- How do you relate to the man on the mat?
- Do you need help getting to Jesus?

Picture yourself as one of the men on the roof . . .

- What emotions or feelings come to mind?
- What are you thinking about?
- How do you relate to the men on the roof?
- Who needs your help finding their way to Jesus?

- What is blocking the way?

Picture yourself as one of the people in the crowd . . .

- What emotions or feelings come to mind?
- What are you thinking about?
- How do you feel about seeing the man lowered right in front of you?
- How do you relate as one of the people in the crowd?



LIVE IT OUT

Local Missions Project

As a group, practice the **Picture It!** method using Micah 6:8. *He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.* Micah 6:8 (NIV)

What does it look like to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God?

In our last session, we introduced you to The Local Missions Project and asked you to recruit a Project Lead to get your group started. Take the time and discuss the following as a group.

- Discuss your options and decide what your group's project will be.
- Decide when you're going to do this project. Consider doing it before the end of the series as we would love to hear your story.
- How long will it take to plan?
- How much time will it require?
- Is this a one-time activity or an ongoing service opportunity?
- What talents, abilities, experiences, resources, and relationships are available in your group to help meet the need?
- Determine what kinds of resources will be required. Make a plan. Divide up responsibilities and assign tasks. If you're in need of resources, reach out to the church office.
- What questions still need to be answered?



GROUP PRAYER

Pray for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life. Pray for God's direction for your group's **Local Missions Project**.



DAILY TIME

Days 8-14: Picture It!

Scripture Reading: Mark 1-7

Week Two Memory Verse: Psalm 119:18 (NIV)

This week in your daily time, read the first seven chapters of the Gospel of Mark. Using the steps for a quiet time, practice the Picture It! method with the recommended Scripture passages below. Be sure to write down your thoughts and observations about how each passage applies to your life.

If you miss a day, don't let that discourage you. Just pick up with the current day and keep moving forward

DAY 8



Picture it!

Jesus heals a leper - Mark 1:40-45

Put yourself in the story as each of the characters.

Be the leper: What are you desperate for God to do in your life?

Be Jesus: Are you willing to touch “untouchable” people?
With which character do you most relate?

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 9



Picture it!

Jesus heals a man with a shriveled hand - Mark 3:1-6
Put yourself in the story as each of the characters.

Be the man with the shriveled hand: Are you disabled in any part of your life?

Be the Pharisee: Are you bothered when someone breaks the rules or does something out of the ordinary? With which character do you most relate?

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 10



Picture it!

Jesus calms the storm - Mark 4:35-41
Put yourself in the story as each of the characters.

Be a disciple: Has Jesus ever led you into a storm? Does it ever seem like He is asleep?

Be in one of the other boats (verse 36): Have you ever been caught up in someone else's storm?

With which character do you most relate?

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 11



Picture it!

Jesus raises a dead girl and heals a sick woman - Mark 5:21-43
Put yourself in the story as each of the characters.

Be Jairus.

Be the woman.

Be the girl.

Be a disciple.

With which character do you most relate?

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 12



Picture it!

Jesus feeds the 5,000 - Mark 6:35-44

Put yourself in the story as each of the characters.

Be a disciple.

Be a member of the crowd.

Be the boy (see John 6:9).

With which character do you most relate?

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .



Jesus walks on water - Mark 6:45-51

Put yourself in the story as each of the characters.

Be a disciple in the boat.

Be Peter.

With which character do you most relate?

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 14



Picture it!

Jesus heals a deaf and mute man - Mark 7:31-37

Put yourself in the story as each of the characters.

Be the deaf and mute man.

Be one of the man's friends.

With which character do you most relate?

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

SESSION 3

“Probe It”

?? CATCHING UP

What did you like about the Picture it! method? What stood out to you the most from your daily devotions this past week?

Are you more of a visual or auditory learner? How does that affect how you read the Bible?

MEMORY VERSE: *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.* James 1:22 (NIV)

Watch SESSION THREE now and take notes in your workbook or journal.



VIDEO LESSON 2: *Probe It!*

Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.
John 17:17 (KJV)

Bible study without application is dangerous because . . .
Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 1 Corinthians 8:1 (NIV)

- Knowledge produces _____.
- Knowledge requires _____.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. *Do what it says.* James 1:22 (NIV)

- Knowledge increases _____.

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. James 4:17 (NIV)

Applying the Bible can be difficult because . . .

1. It requires _____.
2. Satan _____.
3. We naturally _____.

The Application Bridge

Ask these questions and learn how to apply God's Word.

1. What did it _____?
2. What is the _____?
3. How does it _____?

In your letter you asked me about food offered to idols. All of us know something about this subject. But knowledge makes us proud of ourselves, while love makes us helpful to others. In fact, people who think they know so much don't know anything at all.

... Even though food is offered to idols, we know that none of the idols in this world are alive. After all, there is only one God.

... Not everyone knows these things. In fact, many people have grown up with the belief that idols have life in them. So when they eat meat offered to idols, they are bothered by a weak conscience. But food doesn't bring us any closer to God. We are no worse off if we don't eat, and we are no better off if we do. Don't cause problems for someone with a weak conscience, just because you have the right to eat anything. You know all this, and so it doesn't bother you to eat in the temple of an idol. But suppose a person with a weak conscience sees you and decides to eat food that has been offered to idols. Then what you know has destroyed someone Christ died for. When you sin by hurting a follower with a weak conscience, you sin against Christ. So if I hurt one of the Lord's followers by what I eat, I will never eat meat as long as I live. 1 Corinthians 8:1-2, 4, 7-13 (CEV)

What did it mean then? Don't eat meat offered to idols if it offends someone. Even though you know there's nothing wrong with it, it's not the loving thing to do.

What is the timeless truth? Don't allow your freedom to offend someone. Just because you know something is okay to do doesn't mean you should do it. You need to be sensitive to the people around you.

How does it apply now? Is there anything I am doing out of selfishness that could be causing someone to stumble? Don't just think about it, write it down! Be sure to keep track of any insight or applications that you've discovered in your Scripture reading.

The “Probe It” Method of Bible Study

S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S.

S - Is there a _____ to confess?

P - Is there a _____ to claim?

A - Is there an _____ to change?

C - Is there a _____ to obey?

E - Is there an _____ to follow?

P - Is there a _____ to pray?

E - Is there an _____ to avoid?

T - Is there a _____ to believe?

S - Is there _____ to praise God for?



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

What stood out to you the most from the video session?

Why do you think Bible study without application is dangerous?

As a group, practice the Probe It! method of Bible meditation by applying the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions to Micah 6:8. Write down your thoughts and applications.

You might not be able to answer every question. Don't force it. If you can't think of an answer, just move on.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 (NIV)

S - Is there a sin to confess?

P - Is there a promise to claim?

A - Is there an attitude to change?

C - Is there a command to obey?

E - Is there an example to follow?

P - Is there a prayer to pray?

E - Is there an error to avoid?

T - Is there a truth to believe?

S - Is there something to praise God for?



LIVE IT OUT

Local Missions Project

Now that you have applied the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions to Micah 6:8, are there any changes you need to make in your group project? Continue planning your **Local Missions Project**. Are there any details that need to be taken care of? If resources are an issue, come talk to one of the pastors and we'd love to help.

Think of a friend who isn't currently connected to a church.

- Why not invite that person to get involved with your group's **Local Missions Project**?
- What's the worst thing that could happen if you invite them?
- What's the best thing that could happen if you invite them?



GROUP PRAYER

Pray for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life. Pray about your group's Local Missions Project. Were there any personal applications from your study of the verse that you need to talk to God about?



DAILY TIME

Days 15-21: Probe It!

Scripture Reading: Mark 8-16
Week Three Memory Verse: James 1:22

This week in your daily quiet time, read the second half of the Gospel of Mark. Using S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions, practice the **Probe It!** method with the recommended Scripture passages below. Be sure to write down your thoughts and observations about how each passage applies to your life. Use Application Bridge principles to help you discover the application. “**What did it mention? What is the timeless truth? How does it apply?**” Don’t forget to write it down!

If you miss a day, don’t let that discourage you. Just pick up with the current day and keep moving forward.

DAY 15



Probe It!

Jesus teaches about taking up your cross - Mark 8:34-38

Use the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions for this passage. You might not be able to answer every question. If you can’t think of an answer, just move on.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 16*Probe It!*

Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of God? — Mark 9:33-35

Use the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions for this passage. You might not be able to answer every question. If you can't think of an answer, just move on.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 17*Probe It!*

Jesus meets the rich young man — Mark 10:17-31

Use the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions for this passage. You might not be able to answer every question. If you can't think of an answer, just move on.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 18*Probe It!*

We must forgive to be forgiven — Mark 11:25

Use the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions for this passage. You might not be able to answer every question. If you can't think of an answer, just move on.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 19*Probe It!*

A woman anoints Jesus with perfume — Mark 14:3-9

Use the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions for this passage. You might not be able to answer every question. If you can't think of an answer, just move on.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 20*Probe It!*

The crucifixion – Mark 15:33-39

Use the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions for this passage. You might not be able to answer every question. If you can't think of an answer, just move on.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 21*Probe It!*

The resurrection – Mark 16:1-20

Use the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions for this passage. You might not be able to answer every question. If you can't think of an answer, just move on.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

SESSION 4

“Paraphrase It”

?? CATCHING UP

How have your daily devotions been going so far? Are you feeling encouraged or discouraged?

Is there anything you'd like to share from your past week's daily devotions in Mark?

Share a highlight from the past week.

MEMORY VERSE: *I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11 (NIV)*

Watch SESSION FOUR now and take notes in your workbook or journal.

▶ VIDEO LESSON 2: *Paraphrase It!*

Common Problems in a Daily Quiet Time

1. The problem of _____

What should you do?

Go to bed _____.

Get up _____.

Be aware of _____.

Go to bed with _____ on your mind.

Blessed is the man ... who delights in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.

Psalm 1:1-2 (NIV)

2. The problem of _____

Common Causes of Spiritual Dryness:

_____.

Your _____ condition.

Trying to _____ in a hurry.

Being in a _____.

Not sharing your _____.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

3. The problem of _____

What should you do?

Be sure you are thoroughly _____.

Read and pray _____.

_____ while praying.

_____ what God is saying to you.

4. The problem of _____

What should you do?

Make a _____ with God.

Put it into your _____.

Be prepared for the devil's _____ and

_____.

Leave your Bible _____.

Rely on the _____.

The “Paraphrase It” Method of Bible Study

- Read the verse or passage over and over.
- Think about what God is saying to you.
- Put it into your own words.
- Search your heart to see how the verse applies to you.
- Talk to God about it.
- Write down what God is showing you.

The **Paraphrase It!** study method helps put the passage of Scripture into our own words. By putting Scripture into our own words, we gain a clearer understanding of what it means and what the Scripture is trying to say to us. Write back to God what you heard Him say to you and use your own words.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

What stood out to you the most from the video session?

As a group, practice the **Paraphrase It!** method of Bible meditation using Hebrews 4:12 (NIV).

For the word of God is living 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 (NIV)

Read the verse several times. What is God saying to you in this passage?

- Put it into your own words.

- How does this verse apply to you, and what will you do about it? How willing are you to let the Word of God do its work in you? Is this something you fear or look forward to?



LIVE IT OUT

Local Missions Project

As a group, practice the **Paraphrase It!** method on Micah 6:8.

What is God saying to you in this passage? Put it into your own words.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 (NIV)

Take a few moments to discuss your **Local Missions Project**.
What are your next steps?



GROUP PRAYER

If you're struggling in your daily quiet time, ask your group to pray for you.

Pray about your group's **Local Missions Project**.



DAILY TIME

Days 22-28 Paraphrase It!

Scripture Reading: James

Week Four Memory Verse: Psalm 119:11

This week in your daily time, read The Book of James. It's only five chapters long. There's no need to rush your way through the book. Take your time.

Practice the **Paraphrase It!** method using the seven suggested passages below. Be sure to write down your thoughts and observations about how each passage applies to your life.

If you miss a day, don't let that discourage you. Just pick up with the current day and keep moving forward.

DAY 22



Paraphrase It!

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
James 1:2-4 (NIV)

Read the passage several times. Then put it in your own words.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 23*Paraphrase It!*

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. James 1:19-20 (NIV)

Read the passage several times. Then put it in your own words.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 24*Paraphrase It!*

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. James 1:22-25 (NIV)

Read the passage several times. Then put it in your own words.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 25*Paraphrase It!*

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. James 2:17-18 (NIV)

Read the passage several times. Then put it in your own words.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 26*Paraphrase It!*

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. James 3:13 (NIV)

Read the passage several times. Then put it in your own words.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 27*Paraphrase It!*

*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.
James 4:10 (NIV)*

Read the passage several times. Then put it into your own words.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 28*Paraphrase It!*

My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins. James 5:19-20 (NIV)

Read the passage several times. Then put it into your own words.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

SESSION 5

“Pray It! Personalize It!”

?? CATCHING UP

Share any insights from this past week’s Daily Devotions in James.

Describe a time when it seemed as though God spoke directly to you in the Bible.

Do you have a favorite Bible verse or story? If so, what is it?

MEMORY VERSE: *Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24 (NIV)*

Watch SESSION FIVE now and take notes in your workbook or journal.

▶ VIDEO LESSON 2: “Pray It! Personalize It!”

Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart.

Proverbs 7:2-3 (LB)

Benefits of Memorizing Scripture

1. Memorizing Scripture helps me _____.
I have hidden your word in my heart so that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11 (NIV)
2. Memorizing Scripture helps me make _____.
Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105 (NLT)
3. Memorizing Scripture _____ when I’m under stress.
Your promises to me . . . are my only hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me! Psalm 119:49-50 (LB)

4. Memorizing Scripture _____ when I'm sad.
Your words sustain me ... They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me. Jeremiah 15:16 (LB)
5. Memorizing Scripture helps me _____.
Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

How to Memorize Scripture

- Pick a _____.
- Say the _____ before and after the verse.
- Read the verse _____ many times.
- Break the verse into _____.
- Emphasize _____ in each phrase.
- Always memorize the verse _____.

The "Personalize It" Method of Bible Study

Add your name to the spaces provided. Read the Scripture as though God was speaking to you.

For God so loved (_____) that He gave His one and only Son, that if (_____) believes in Him, (_____) shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

He who began a good work in (_____) will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

"I began a good work in you, (_____), and I will carry it on to completion." Philippians 1:6

"Trust in Me, (_____), with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Me, and I will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

"I am your Shepherd, (_____), you shall not be in want. I make you lie down in green pastures, I lead you beside quiet waters, I restore your soul. I guide you, (_____), in the paths of righteousness for My name's sake." Psalm 23:1-3

Think of the Word of God as a love letter to you. God wants you to read it and get to know Him through reading His Word. Devotional reading and meditating on Scripture helps us to understand what God thinks about us and allows us to grow closer to Him!

The Pray It! Method of Bible Study

In this method, you pray the Scripture back to God as if you are saying it about yourself. Use first person singular words like, "I," "me," "my." Pray it back to God while making it personal!

"I am your Shepherd, you shall not be in want. I make you lie down in green pastures, I lead you beside quiet waters, I restore your soul. I guide you, in the paths of righteousness for My name's sake." Psalm 23:1-3

Thank You, Lord, for being my Shepherd, and that I lack nothing. Thank You for making me lie down in green pastures, and for leading me beside the quiet waters. Thank You for restoring my soul. Thank You for guiding me in the paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Psalm 23:1-3

"Trust in Me, with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Me, and I will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

Help me, Lord, to trust You with all of my heart and to stop leaning on my own understanding. Please give me the faith to acknowledge You in all my ways so You can direct my paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

The Pray It! method really makes Scripture personal. What is God saying to you? This method allows us to ask questions like: How does the verse or passage apply to my life right now? What does God want me to do about it? How can I put it into practice? What do I need to think or feel differently about? How does He want me to live from now on?

Four Factors in Writing a Good Application

Your application should be:

_____ - First person

_____ - Something you can do

_____ - Something you know you can accomplish

_____ - Measurable so you know when you have done it



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

What stood out to you the most from the video session?

- Go back and read the Scriptures under the **“Personalize It!”** method. How does this make you feel? What stood out to you the most?
- Go back and read the Scripture under the **“Pray It!”** method. How does this make you feel? What stood out to you the most?

As a group, practice the **Personalize It!** method using 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Insert your name into the passage and rewrite it as though God were saying it directly to you.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

- What does it mean to honor God with your body? What does it mean to you that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?
- How does knowing that you were bought with a price change the way you live your life?
- Review the four points of application. How can you honor God by treating your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit in a personal and practical way?



LIVE IT OUT

Local Missions Project

Practice the **Personalize It!** method on Micah 6:8 by inserting your name in the verse, and rewriting it as though God were saying it directly to you.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 (NIV)

There are just two weeks remaining in 40 Days in the Word. It would be great if your group completed your **Local Missions Project** before this series ends. Is anything standing in the way?



GROUP PRAYER

During your group prayer time, practice the **Pray It!** method by praying the Scripture verses below as blessings over each other. Pray for each other's prayer requests using the verses on the next page.

Don't forget to spend time praying for your group's **Local Missions Project**.

Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Philippians 1:27a (NIV)

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

. . . I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Philippians 3:12b (NLT)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19 (NIV)



DAILY TIME

Days 29-35 Pray It! Personalize It!

Scripture Reading: Philippians
Week Five Memory Verse: Matthew 7:24

This week let's read the book of Philippians again. Read it with fresh eyes and "ears" to hear what God has to say to you. During your daily quiet time, use the **Personalize It!** method on each of the verses below by inserting your name in place of the nouns or pronouns and rewriting the verse as though God were saying it directly to you. Be sure to write down your thoughts and observations about how each passage applies to your life. Then pray the verse back to God.

If you miss a day, don't let that discourage you. Just pick up with the current day and keep moving forward.

DAY 29



Pray It! Personalize It!

Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

Insert your name into the Scripture and rewrite the verse as though God were saying it directly to you.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Pray It! Pray Philippians 1:6 back to God.

DAY 30*Pray It! Personalize It!*

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Philippians 1:27a (NIV)

Insert your name into the Scripture and rewrite the verse as though God were saying it directly to you.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Pray It! Pray Philippians 1:27 back to God.

DAY 31*Pray It! Personalize It!*

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

Insert your name into the Scripture and rewrite the verse as though God were saying it directly to you.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Pray It! Pray Philippians 2:13 back to God.

DAY 32*Pray It! Personalize It!*

... I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Philippians 3:12b (NLT)

Insert your name into the Scripture and rewrite the verse as though God were saying it directly to you.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Pray It! Pray Philippians 3:12b back to God.

DAY 33*Pray It! Personalize It!*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

Insert your name into the Scripture and rewrite the verse as though God were saying it directly to you.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Pray It! Pray Philippians 4:6-7 back to God.

DAY 34



Pray It! Personalize It!

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)*

Insert your name into the Scripture and rewrite the verse as though God were saying it directly to you.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Pray It! Pray Philippians 4:13 back to God.

DAY 35



Pray It! Personalize It!

My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

Insert your name into the Scripture and rewrite the verse as though God were saying it directly to you.

Apply It! How does this verse apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Pray It! Pray Philippians 4:19 back to God.

SESSION 6

“Principles of Bible Interpretation!”

?? CATCHING UP

What has been one of your favorite moments over the course of this series?

How has your daily quiet time improved over the past month?

MEMORY VERSE: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.* Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

Watch SESSION SIX now and take notes in your workbook or journal.

▶ VIDEO LESSON 2: *“Principles of Bible Interpretation!”*

If you continue in my word you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.
John 8:31-32 (NKJV)

How to Continue in the Word.

- Make a _____.
If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done. Ecclesiastes 11:4 (LB)
- Make a _____.
- Be _____.
- _____.
Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (GNB)
- _____ on God.

Principles of Bible Interpretation

- _____ and the _____ are necessary for proper interpretation.

No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us . . . The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned . . . But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:11-16 (NIV)

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth . . . He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. John 16:13-14 (NIV)

- The _____ is its own best _____.
- Read the _____ with the _____ in mind, and read the _____ with the _____ in mind.
- Always interpret _____ passages in the light of _____ passages.
- Don't form a _____ based solely on a _____.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Mark 1:35 (NIV)

- Don't interpret _____ based on _____ instead, interpret _____ based on _____.

Exegesis means to draw out of the text the truth that God put there.

Eisegesis is to read into the text some idea or theory that you want to see there.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

What stood out to you the most from the video session?

As a group, review the six methods of biblical meditation using this week's Memory Verse:

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

Pronounce It! Which word stands out most prominently to you?

Picture It! What do the phrases “lamp to my feet” and “light for my path” look like to you?

Probe It! Use the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions from Session Three.

Paraphrase It! Put it into your own words. Can you think of other metaphors to use?

Personalize It! Insert your name in place of the first-person pronouns; then rewrite it again, as though God were saying it directly to you.

Pray It! Take a moment and pray this verse back to God, thanking Him for the direction, wisdom, strength, and comfort you find in His Word.

1. What method of Bible study did you find to be the *most helpful*?
2. What method of Bible study will you *continue to practice*?
3. What Scriptures have had an *impact on your life* over the course of this series?
4. What are your *next steps* after today?



LIVE IT OUT

Local Missions Project

We pray your **Local Missions Project** will be the starting point of a lifestyle of service for your group and for you as an individual. Our hope is that you will look back after these 40 days and not say, “Look at what we did,” but rather, “Look at what we started!”

What can you or your group do to continue reaching out to your community with the love of Jesus Christ?



GROUP PRAYER

Before you pray for each other's requests, spend a few minutes giving thanks for what God has done in your life during **40 Days in the Word**. Pray for each other's prayer requests.

40 DAYS *in the* **WORD**

LOVE the Word. LEARN the Word. LIVE the Word.



DAILY TIME

Days 36-40: "Principles of Bible Interpretation"

Scripture Reading: Psalm 1

Week Six Memory Verse: Psalm 119:105

This week, use Psalm 1 every day to review all six methods of Bible meditation. Remember to use Application Bridge questions (see Session Three) to discover how the Psalm applies to your life.

Be sure to write down your thoughts, observations, and applications.

If you miss a day, don't let that discourage you. Just pick up with the current day and keep moving forward.

DAY 36



"Pronounce It!"

Psalm 1:1-6

Select a verse from Psalm 1. Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word or phrase to write down your thoughts.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 37*“Picture It!”*

Psalm 1:1-6

Picture the imagery of the Psalm.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 38*“Probe It!”*

Psalm 1:1-6

Use the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions for this passage. You might not be able to answer every question. Don't force it. If you can't think of an answer, just move on.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 39*“Paraphrase It!”*

Psalm 1:1-6

Read the passage several times. Then put it into your own words.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

DAY 40*“Personalize It!”*

Psalm 1:1-6

Insert your name into the Scripture and rewrite the verse as though God were saying it directly to you.

Apply It! How do these verses apply to your life? What will you do about it?

Pray It! Pray Psalm 1 back to God.

NEXT STEPS for you to build on the foundation you have laid in the last 40 days.

ONLINE DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

You Version www.bible.com/reading-plans

A great app with multiple Bible translations plus a wide range of Bible reading plans.

BibleGateway www.biblegateway.com/devotionals

A range of daily reading plans and devotionals categorized by men, women, families and more.

Bible in One Year www.bibleinoneyear.org

Read the Bible in one year with commentary from Nicki & Pippa Gumbel (Alpha)

ONLINE STUDY TOOLS

BlueLetterBible.org

Blue Letter Bible provides powerful tools for an in-depth study of God's Word through their free online reference library, with study tools that are grounded in the historical, conservative Christian faith.

Bible.org

Free access to the finest, most trustworthy biblical truths and materials. Access the NET Bible with its 60,000+ notes for free to the world and free access to Lumina, the best Bible reading and study tool available online.

EXTRA RESOURCES

Bartholomew, Craig G., and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2004.

Wright, N. T. *Surprised by Scripture: Engaging Contemporary Issues*. Harperone, 2014.

Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas K. Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2003.

Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas K. Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2002.

MacArthur, John. *How to Study the Bible*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009.

Wayfinding Bible. S.I.: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013.

To find out more about the Bible study methods used in this workbook and other methods check out:

Warren, Rick. *Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods: Twelve Ways You Can Unlock God's Word*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2006.

