

April 28, 2021

***"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."***

Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

Lamps are made to dispel darkness. When lit, they illuminate the surrounding area, providing us with a way to see what is around us with clarity. A lamp will help you determine the best path to travel from point A to point B, allowing you to see the proper trail as well as any dangers alongside or in the path that could harm you or cause you to stumble. Once you are aware of the hazards, you can choose to navigate safely around them.

The Bible is God's lamp for our journey in this world. First, His word lights the path to true life through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. It illuminates the pit of death and destruction we have mired ourselves in and shines brightly on the nail-scarred hand that reaches down to us from the cross where forgiveness was made available. An empty tomb is also in view, calling us to reach out and grasp this hand that will take us on the path from hopelessness to hope. This is the beginning of our journey of faith. ***"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*** (Rom 10:17)

From this point, the light of God's word helps us to move forward in life without stumbling in the darkness of this world. As we study, His lamp lights our journey. It points out the things that can harm us that we might avoid them. It shows us the things that will bless us that we might adopt them. As we take what we learn and apply it to our lives, we find the greatest blessing to be found on our trek through this world is to live life for the Lord and others. For only by living in this way will we find the life of peace, joy, and purpose for which Jesus died on the cross that we might receive it. ***". . . I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*** (John 10:10)

Have you ever given someone a Bible? Most of us have. We may have given one to our children or to a friend. Cindy and I give a number of them away to people of all backgrounds in our ministry. What we have noticed over the years is this: less people have a working knowledge of the Bible than in previous years. Many do not understand verse referencing and could not look up a passage to follow along if they were in church. Because of the unfamiliarity many have with the Bible, when we give one away, we cover some basics to help them manipulate the Bible without feeling overwhelmed. If we send a Bible, we include a letter with similar information to aid the person in their journey with Christ.

For similar reasons, we have a document to assist a person in their personal Bible study. This resulted from a request we received at the Lighthouse Shelter where we facilitate a weekly Bible study. The paper covers some very basic items with regard to studying the Bible. It is not comprehensive; we did not want anyone to feel weighed down by "so much

to do". As well, we are confident additional depth will come with time. It is our prayer that paper will simply cause the person to take time to consider what is being said in the Bible so they might develop a proper response to God's truth.

We have included both of these papers with this newsletter. If you are one who gives away copies of the Bible or if you teach those who are just beginning their walk with Christ, we pray it will prove beneficial in your ministry.

Covid-19 still has our nation in a state of confusion. However, the Lord has kept us busy. I have preached more this year than any other and it is always a privilege to expound the Lord's word to His children. The number of food-banks have picked up in our area as well and we have been able to come alongside many of them to share the Gospel and aid them in meeting physical needs. We have also spent more time at the Lighthouse Shelter during this season. In all of this, we thank the Lord for the opportunities He provides to exalt Jesus and bless others. We are truly grateful to be used by Him!

We are collecting for the Ministry to a Ministry effort for Vieux Carre Baptist Church. The items will be used to help anyone who comes in the door at Vieux Carre even as the Gospel is shared with them.

We are asking you, your Sunday School, and your church to prayerfully consider helping us bless this ministry that they might be a blessing to others. If you live in the Southern Illinois area, we will happily pick up the things you choose to donate. If they are winter items, we will gladly store them until the time we take them to New Orleans. If you live farther away, we ask that you pray about making a cash donation. Tell us it is to be used for "Vieux Carre" when you send it. All donations designated for Vieux Carre will be used to purchase needed items or given to them as a cash donation. Below are the items/sizes that are needed.

### **Gently used**

- Men's pants waist size 30-40 (No dress pants)
- Men's shorts waist size 30-40
- Men's long sleeve tees and shirts (no dress shirts)
- T-shirts size Medium - XXXL
- Clean used socks (Men's and Women's)
- Belts
- Good, used tennis/walking shoes and work boots
- Used backpacks and duffle bags
- Travel shampoos
- Men's & Women's winter coats size Medium - XXXL
- Men's hoodies size Medium - XXXL (no sweaters)
- Men's winter hats
- Men's winter gloves
- Backpacks

### **Purchased items**

- Disposable razors
- Small deodorant
- Socks (Men's and Women's)
- Men's underwear size 32-38

Lord willing, we plan to take items to Vieux Carre Baptist Church in late June. We ask for your help in providing for the needs of this ministry of our Lord.

**We ask for your prayers for the ongoing ministry of Call of Grace mentioned above. We also request your prayers for the following:**

- Stand in the gap for your Brothers and Sisters that we, as His people, would act with faith on the promise in 2 Chron 7:14.
- Pray for our nation's leaders at every level.
- Pray for those in law enforcement who are dedicated to serving and protecting all who live in our society. May the Lord protect and bless the blue line standing between us and anarchy.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Everything the Lord calls us to do is done with your help and we are thankful to the Lord for your service to Him with us. If He calls you to go on mission with us, wherever we go, or to help support a mission or any part of our ministry, please let us know. Likewise, if you or your church believe we could be of service to you as regards your evangelistic efforts, please contact us.

Until Jesus comes,

*Dennis & Cindy Mohr*

### **~Cindy's Bottom Line~**

Diving into God's Word is vital. It blesses us with wisdom, insight, and understanding.

***"For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. "***

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

Call of Grace Ministries is a 501(c)3 ministry and your contributions are tax deductible. We go as God provides and your support of this ministry is a blessing to us as we move forward in the Lord's call.

## Bible Study Basics

### 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NLT)

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

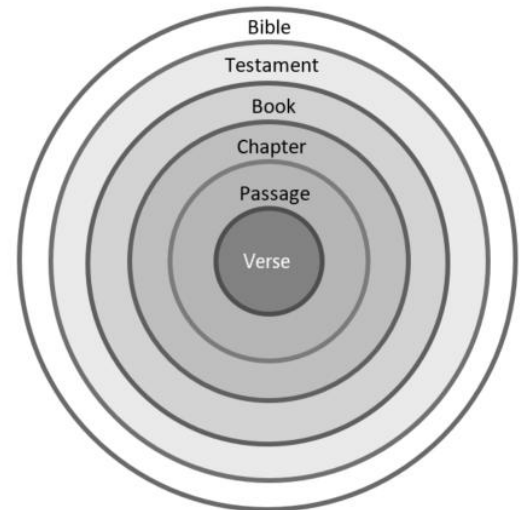
#### Things to look for when you read:

1. What does this passage tell me about God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit)?
  - a. Who He is
  - b. What He has done
  - c. What He will do
2. What does this passage tell me about people?
  - a. Who we are
  - b. What we have done
  - c. Who we can be
3. Are there any commands, encouragements, or warnings in the passage?
4. What should I do to apply what I have learned in from this passage to my life?
  - a. Do I need to quit doing something?
  - b. Do I need to start doing something?
  - c. Do I need to start doing something differently?

#### Circles of Context - Looking for the meaning of Scripture

When we try to comprehend a verse in the Bible, we look for a meaning based on the Bible itself. As we seek to understand the meaning of a verse or passage in Scripture, we broaden our focus from the part we are reading to include the rest of the Bible in the following order.

1. The verse
2. The passage in which the verse is included
3. The chapter of the book of the Bible
4. The book of the Bible
5. The Testament of the Bible (Old or New)
6. The Bible



*Seek the meaning within the Bible*

### Malachi 3:6a-b (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> “For I *am* the LORD, I do not change. . .

### 1 Corinthians 14:33a-b (NKJV)

<sup>33</sup> For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace. . .

If you read two passages and you believe they contradict one another, you do not understand what you have read. Proceed as follows:

- Don't be concerned
- Ask the Lord to help you understand
- Keep studying

## Reading the Bible Basics

Enclosed is the Bible I told you I would send to you. I am unsure how familiar you are with the Bible, so I will mention some things you may or may not know.

- Your Bible may have a cord attached to use as a bookmark.
- Most Bibles have a Table of Contents or index in the front that lists all of the books of the Bible (These books are sometimes referred to as "letters" or "epistles" if they are in the New Testament). In this table, the books of the Bible will be separated by whether they are in the Old or New Testament and the page # on which each book begins is given. The abbreviation for the name of each book is also usually given.
- Some books have a number (1, 2, or 3) in front of the name. This is pronounced first, second, or third. For example 1 John is pronounced "First John".
- The first four books of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) are usually referred to as Gospels rather than books, letters, or epistles.
- If a Pastor said, "Today, we will be in the Gospel of John.", you will find the page that it begins on in the Table of Contents. **Turn to the Gospel of John.**
- Anytime a passage (section) of the Bible is referenced, it is identified by book, chapter, and verse. On the first page of the Gospel of John you will see the name John. You will also see a large, bold #1 as well as other, smaller numbers mixed in with the text. The name identifies the book, or in this case the Gospel. The #1 identifies the chapter within the book while the smaller numbers identify verses. You will see it written like this: John 1:12. John 1:12 references, or stands for, the Gospel of John, chapter 1, verse 12. **Find this verse on the page and read it.** It begins, "But as many".
- Many times a person will say the book and numbers, omitting the words chapter and verse. A pastor might say, "Turn to John three sixteen". This would be the Gospel of John, chapter three, verse sixteen (John 3:16). **Find this verse and read it.** It begins "For God so".
- You will notice that these words are in red. When you see words in red in the Bible, it means these are words that Jesus said (not all Bibles use red lettering). **Do not turn the page.**
- Look at the top of the page on the left. You will see a reference listing a book, chapter, verse reference. The page on the right has a reference also. These references are similar to the guide words you find in a dictionary. The one on the left-hand page is a reference for the first verse that starts on the left page while the one on the right-hand page refers to the last verse that starts on the right page. So, on these two pages, you will find the verses beginning with the reference on the left-hand page up to the reference on the right-hand page. This helps you locate a particular verse or passage within a book faster.
- A passage of Scripture consists of multiple, sequential verses in the Bible. A passage will come from a single book of the Bible. The verses making up the passage may be in one chapter or they may cross over into another chapter.
  - Philippians 4:6-9 = Philippians, chapter 4, beginning at verse 6 and concluding with verse 9.
  - Matthew 5:1 - 7:28 = Gospel of Mathew, chapter 5, beginning with verse 1 and concluding with chapter 7, verse 28. This particular passage is known as The Sermon on the Mount. You may also see this passage referenced as Matthew 5-7 (The Gospel of Mathew chapters 5, 6, and 7).
  - **Look up the two passages and read them.**

Look up and read the following

- John 14:6
- John 3:16-18
- 1 John 5:11-13
- Romans 6:23
- Romans 10:9-10
- Romans 10:13
- Psalm 119:57-64

I would suggest that you begin your reading in the Book of John. Once you have read the Gospel of John, go to the Gospel of Matthew (the beginning of the New Testament) and read the New Testament completely. Also read Psalms and Proverbs in the Old Testament. I would suggest that you read the New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs through completely three times before you begin reading the rest of Old Testament.

It is my prayer that you will read this Bible daily:

- With the expectation that you will learn something about God, about yourself, or about how God would have you be during your life on this earth.
- With the intent to be obedient to the Lord's commands.

***May you adopt the Lord's perspective regarding who you are and can be in Jesus!***