



WIELDING THE WORD

A THOUGHT ON WIELDING THE WORD

Thanks to the 24/7 News Cycles and Social Media platforms, we live in a world where we have access to News & Information any time we like. While this is a blessing sometimes, it also means that we are influenced by curated narratives, perspectives and opinions about the world, life & what it means to live. This 24/7 access means we potentially have someone telling us how to live and be 24/7. This is a problem.

Paul's letter to the Romans encourages us "To not be conformed to the Patterns of this world". Rather he encourages us "To be transformed by the renewing of your mind". We believe a massive part of this is listening, reading and engaging with God's Story. The story comes from 66 different books, spans 1000's of years and leads to Jesus; revealing His Good & Beautiful work in the world and how we can participate.

Our prayer for this Practice is to see more people engaging in creative, fresh and regular ways with the Gift that is the Bible

Wielding the Word: Knowing and living in God's redemptive story.



KEY VERSES

2 Timothy 3:16

1 Timothy 4:13

Psalm 119:105

Psalm 119:10-11

Matthew 4:4

Psalm 1:2

Hebrews 4:12

Matthew 24:35

TEACHING



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TREKKING TOGETHER

FORM

THIS MONTH, IN YOUR SMALL GROUP, SMALL TABLE, CELL GROUP (WHATEVER YOU CALL IT) READ THE KEY VERSES & CONSIDER THE BELOW QUESTIONS.

QUESTIONS

WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BIBLE?

DO YOU FIND READING THE BIBLE EASY? HARD? IF SO WHY?

HAS THERE BEEN A SEASON IN THE PAST WHERE YOU HAVE READ MORE OF THE BIBLE? WHAT INSPIRED OR WORKED IN THAT SEASON?

WHAT IS GOD ASKING YOU TO DO, MOVING FORWARD?

WHAT ABOUT THIS PRACTICE COULD YOU SEE CARRYING ON THROUGHOUT THE YEAR?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

The Invitation

The reality is there is no 'perfect' way to read the Bible. The main thing is that we are reading it. The invitation behind these tools and practices is not necessarily to do everyone one of them, but to be encouraged to try and find what rhythm works best for you and your Transformational Journey with Jesus.

Wield it

See the 'SOAPS' & 'Lectio Divina' tools within this Practice as a couple of ways to dig deeper into the Word. To not only "read" something but hopefully let it change and form you; to better understand who God is and what he might be up to in your life.

Cultivate Community

A lot of the Bible was written for Groups, to be heard and then discussed and to grow together as the church. If you are reading something, inspired by something, challenged by something. If God is working in you, through the Word, then Share it, particularly with a small trusted community. (Also see the reading scripture aloud practice further on)

Practice Stacking

Don't forget with each new Practice comes a chance to stack previous Practices. For example, a healthy Wielding of the Word enhances community & allows us to combine stillness & your prayer life.

LECTIO DIVINA

Having established a time and place that are both quiet and free from distraction, set aside 3-5 times this week to practice Lectio Divina. After selecting one passage, read and move slowly through each of the five movements of spiritual reading.

READ

Read (lectio): Read the passage slowly and carefully. Take your time. As you move through the text, pay close attention to what words and ideas draw your attention in unique ways. When your focus is drawn to a particular word or thought, pause momentarily to reflect on them.

REFLECT

Reflect (mediatio): Upon completing the passage, return to the beginning and read again. On your second journey through the text, allow the text to connect with you personally. Which words or phrases assume a particular resonance in your heart, your season of life, your person in this moment. Ask, "What do I need to know, or be, or do in light of the text? What does this mean for my life today?"

RESPOND

Respond (oratio): Talk to God about your experience. If you're confused, say that. Moved? Express gratitude to God. Upset? Tell him about it. Compelled to worship? Worship. If the text has brought something else to mind, talk to God about that.

REST

Rest (contemplatio): Pause to sit in God's presence before fleeing from the moment. You might express wonder, awe, gratitude, or praise through words, or you might allow yourself to feel and experience these things quietly before God.

BIBLE READING TOOL

S

Scripture: Open the verse/paragraph/chapter from the Bible that you want to learn from & read it, sometimes out loud (depending on where you are) or in your head.

Do this a couple of times.

O

Observe: Firstly, ask yourself what stands out to you in the verse? Secondly, consider the context of this verse by asking questions of the text like, why is this being said? Who said it? Who is hearing it? This will help you learn and dig deep into it.

A

Application: How can you apply the truth you learned from the text in your own life? What does God want you to change? What area/s does He want you to grow in?

BIBLE READING TOOL

P

Pray: This next step is important, so don't take it lightly.

Prayer is where we come to God and bring to Him what we have learnt. We ask His Spirit for strength and the ability to be able to transformed His word.

S

Share: Share with others.

Share with your small table.

Share what you are learning, challenged by, encouraged with.

Share the research, the context, the information you have found about the passage and Grow & Trek Together!

#THETRANSFORMATIONTREK - WIELDING THE WORD

READING SCRIPTURE ALOUD

There are many parts of the Bible that come to life in new ways when we read them out loud together and in one sitting, so we want to do just that. Spend a few moments reading through the following steps in order to make the necessary decisions and familiarise yourself with the process before doing the Practice. Once you've made the necessary decisions (which passage, who reads, who's praying, etc), do the Practice together as a Community.

2. Get Comfortable – You'll be reading for the next 20 or so minutes, so make sure that you're in a place, position, and posture to be still, attentive, and open to God.

2. Pick a Text – There are so many passages and books of the Bible with which to try this. Pick one of them to spend time reading out loud as a Community. Some suggestions for reading aloud: Ruth, Psalm 119, Matthew 5 – 7, John 18 – 21, Galatians, Philippians, James, 1 John, 2 John, & 3 John

3. Establish The Reader(s) – Decide who will read the text. One person can read the whole thing, a few of you can split it, or (what we would recommend) each person can read some of it until the whole text is finished. Spend a moment to decide how you will break up the text and who will read.

4. Invite the Holy Spirit – Take a deep breath and settle in. Have one person invite the Holy Spirit to help you all to listen in a posture of surrender and to form you by what is read.

5. Read – Spend time to read the entire text aloud together in one sitting.

Open it & Read it.

The Bible is no use if not used. It has no effect on our life if not opened and read. This season we are providing a 'Bible in a Year' reading plan as a tool to help us all read the Word more & together.



The Bible in a Year - Reading Plan.
www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/24572



FAMILY PRACTICE

A Couple of Ideas

Young kids & Toy Stories | Read a Bible storybook together. Then, gather up toys and/or stuffed animals and retell the story using the items as characters and props. This can be as simple or elaborate as you'd like to make it.

Primary school age kids & Lunchbox Notes | Jot a Bible verse on an index card and slip it in your child's lunchbox for a little midday connection with God's Word.

Teenagers Mirror, Mirror | Jot an encouraging Bible verse on your teenager's bathroom mirror once a week using a dry erase marker. It's a small gesture, but one that will start their day with a dose of God's truth for their heart.

The Example | Like, most of the practices, if your kids see you genuinely enjoy, use and read the bible, this will have profound effects on their relationship with it and how they use it, in the future.