

In the last study we saw that following Jesus involves *spending time with him* and *learning from him* so that we can *become like him*. Despite Jesus no longer physically walking the earth, we can still learn directly from him - through the Word.

Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

1. According to 2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16, who were the Scriptures written *by*?
2. Why do you think Peter and Paul (the author of 2 Timothy) stress the importance that the Scriptures were ultimately inspired by God?
3. Take a look at Romans 15:4. Who were the Scriptures written for?
4. The Bible is full of verses that promise blessing to those who know and obey God's Word. Below are just a few. Read each passage, and list at least one benefit you observe.

a. Psalm 1:2-3

b. Psalm 19:7-8

c. Psalm 119:105

d. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

e. 1 Peter 2:2

f. 2 Peter 1:3-4

5. Read James 1:22-25.

a. Reflect on the metaphor James uses here – the man in the mirror.

In verse 22 he says, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

In what way is the man here deceived?

Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

1. Consider all the various forms of communication available to people living in the ancient near east. Why do you think God preserved his Word for us in written form rather than oral tradition, artwork, etc.?
2. Read Ezra 7:10. Ezra is a good example of a man who felt a responsibility towards God's Word. How would you describe the three parts to Ezra's approach to God's Word?
3. In the previous study, you looked at several distinguishing marks of a disciple. One of these was found in John 8:31-32, where Jesus says, "...if you hold to my teaching, then you really are my disciples..." In light of the leadership role Jesus called his disciples to play, why do you believe it was important for these first disciples to "hold to his teaching."
4. Read John 5:39-40 and John 20:30-31. What role should the scriptures play in leading non-believers to Jesus?

Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Take a look at the Hand Illustration located at the back of this notebook. Here are 5 simple ways to maintain a steady intake of God's word.

1. Hand Illustration

<u>Method</u>	<u>Key Verse</u>	<u>Personal goal/application for this semester</u>
Hear it	Nehemiah 8:9 Proverbs 1:5	
Read it	Deuteronomy 17:19	
Study it	2 Timothy 2:15	
Memorize it	Psalms 37:31; 119:11	
Meditate on it	Joshua 1:8	

2. **Something to Consider** - Getting to know Jesus through His word is not without cost. Similar to your course work, it will require time, energy, and perseverance – but the investment is invaluable. Would you consider adding a three credit class to your current schedule? Maybe a Tues/ Thurs 9:30-10:45, or a MWF 2-2:50? Use the time to read and study the Bible, listen to mp3 or watch video messages, memorize key verses, or maybe just meditate on God's Word. You could even use this time to meet with someone for accountability in the Word. What do you think?
3. What is one creative way that you could expose your non-believing friends to God's Word?