

# WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

*It is the Instruction Manual from God.*

## Lesson 5 - HOW TO GET ANYTHING OUT OF THE BIBLE?

### COMMON SENSE PREVIEW

- *If there's nothing in the Bible that you want, then you & I are both wasting our time. Put down this lesson & pick up something else that is really working for you.*
- *If you even remotely think that God could be in charge of the universe, at least, give Him a try.*
- *To get cookies out of the cookie jar, you must stick you hand in the container & pull them out.*

2 Timothy 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. [This is the New King James Version].

"Diligent" = Hurry up and do it.  
 "Approved" = Currently acceptable

"Worker" = Energy exerted for a task  
 "Ashamed" = I put an ugly mask over my face

"Rightly" = Correctly  
 "Dividing" = A straight cut

[Now, let me write this verse in my own words.]

*"You need to quickly & correctly dig into the Bible [Yes, that means read it.] God will tell you that He approves of you and accepts you as you are; yes, you can take off the mask of shame.*

1. What two things do we learn from reading the Bible?
  - a. ".....present yourself \_\_\_\_\_ to God."
  - b. ".....you do not need to be \_\_\_\_\_."
2. Yes No Would you agree that mankind wrestles with both these issues?
3. Yes No If reading the Bible regularly could help here, should we start?

Proverbs 28:5 - *Rebellious men do not understand justice; those who seek the Lord can see the difference & live that way.*

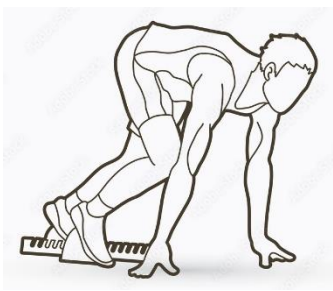
- *"Understand" means "to see the difference between evil and good".*
- *We get the "Wisdom of God" when we accept Christ as our Savior (become a believer). (Prov. 9:10)*
- *As we grow in that "Wisdom" (Christian life), God sharpens our "understanding" (Christian growth).*
- **THAT SHARPENING OF OUR UNDERSTANDING COMES FROM READING THE BIBLE.**

4. Having "understanding" is worth more than \_\_\_\_\_.
5. A man with "understanding from God":
  - a. (Proverbs 1:5) - "becomes \_\_\_\_\_."
  - b. (Prov. 8:14) - "has \_\_\_\_\_."
  - c. (Prov. 11:12) - "controlled by \_\_\_\_\_."
  - d. (Prov. 13:15) - "gains \_\_\_\_\_."
  - e. (Prov. 15:21) - "walks \_\_\_\_\_."
  - f. (Prov. 15:32) - "accepts \_\_\_\_\_."

**DON'T FORGET THIS VERSE.** 2 Timothy 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- **DON'T EXPECT TO GROW HEALTHY EATING OUT OF A DUMPSTER.** (The world's way)
- **EAT FROM THE BIBLE AND GET THREE BALANCED MEALS A DAY.** (God's Way)

The next pages show you some suggestions for starting to read the Bible.



# ON YOUR MARK - GET SET - GO

Get a Bible

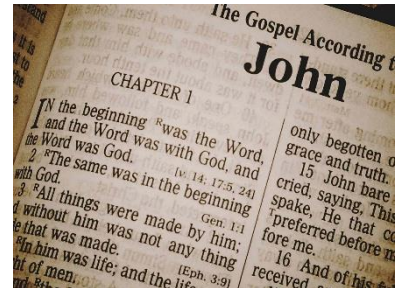
Sit Down

Read

## Three Bible-Reading Strategies

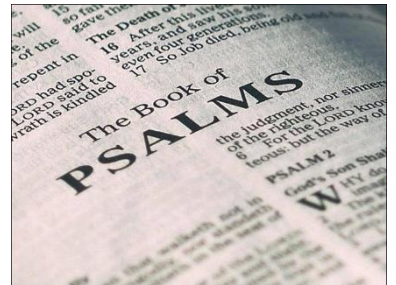
### STRATEGY #1 - READ JOHN'S GOSPEL FOR 21 DAYS

- Read 1 chapter of John each day of the month.
- If you start mid-month, just keep reading for 21 days.
- Don't overdo your reading if this is new to you.
- If you choose, you can read that chapter more than once.
- When you finish that chapter, put it down & move on.
- Ask God what He wanted you to learn in that reading.



### STRATEGY #2 - READ THE PSALMS IN 30 DAYS

- Read Psalms 1-5 the first day.
- Read Psalms 6-10 the second day & so on. (5 Psalms per day)
- There are 150 Psalms. (5 Psalms X 30 days = 150 Psalms)
- From one of the Psalms on each day, pick one verse that tells you something that God can do. (Just mark it.)
- Example: on day #1, read 5 Psalms (1-5); pick one verse in any of those 5 Psalms that tells you something that God can do. (Just mark it or circle it in your Bible.)



### STRATEGY #3 - READ THE PROVERBS IN 31 DAYS

- Read Proverbs Chapter 1 on the first day.
- Read Proverbs Chapter 2 on the second day. (and so on)
- There are 31 chapters in the Book of Proverbs.
- 1 Chapter X 31 days = 31 Proverb chapters.
- Each day, pick one verse in the chapter that just jumped right off the page into your face. (Just mark it.)



### A FEW SUGGESTIONS

1. If you miss a day of reading, don't freak; the next day, just keep reading where you left off.
2. Tell someone what you are doing; they might want to do it too. You never know - that person may help keep you on track, OR get together to talk about the reading.