

Day 4: Mark your bible...and it will mark you

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Think about it:

Does the bible give us benefits like direction, guidance, leadership? Could you use more of any of those in your life?

Read it:

Look at these verses and write down some comments about how the bible can help you have those benefits today.

Psalm 119:9

Psalm 119:98

Psalm 119:66

Psalm 119:105

Psalm 119:89

Psalm 119:130

Act on it: In your bible, underline or circle the key parts of today's verses (yes—you can write in your bible). That way you know that if you need encouragement from these verses again someday, you can remember they came from Psalm 119 and your marks on the verses will help you find them. Consider having a pen or pencil available every time you read the bible so you can mark it when something stands out. The more time you spend marking your bible, the more you will realize that God's words leave their mark on you.



HAMMERTIME

Week 2
February 15, 2009

Purpose: To nail down this week's Awaken topic (Studying Your Bible).

How to use it: Individuals can do it on their own 4 times a week to cultivate this habit of spending time with God regularly. Families: adults are encouraged to do HammerTime on their own & then meet with their whole family to go through it together.

Example of time: Read verses (3 min), Discuss/think about (5 min), Pray (2 min)

For more tools: check out Bethlehembc.com or AwakenToolbox.com.

Day 1: God wrote a letter...to us!

Read it: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

What are the 4 actions that the bible takes to equip us? How does that make you feel that God wants to do those things in your life through His Word?

Think about it:

What do you think the term "God-breathed" means?

Do you believe that the bible is perfect or that it has errors? Can it really make a difference in our lives to study the bible and apply what we learn? Would God have "breathed" something that would have errors or would have no value to it?

Act on it: Consider how you view your copy of the bible. Take some time and thank God that He gave you a handbook for life, that you live in a country where you are free to read it—and that, most likely, you are physically able to read the scriptures. Every time you open your bible ask God to help you understand it and how to apply it to your life.

Day 2: Always on my mind

Read it: Joshua 1:8

What does “not...depart from your mouth” mean?

Does it mean that God wants His Word naturally coming out of your mouth all day long?

Think about it:

“Meditate” means to think on something or focus completely on one thing in particular. What are some ways you can “meditate” on scripture?

Why does God want us to “do everything written” in His Word? Is it to limit us, tie us down, make our lives painful? What benefits would we get if we “do everything written” in His Word?

Act on it: Let’s work on memorizing 1 verse together this week—so that it will not depart from our mouths, but will be with us all day long. Get an index card, piece of paper, etc., and write out Ephesians 4:29. As you memorize this verse, ask God to use it throughout your day to shape the way that you speak.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

Ephesians 4:29



Day 3: Sharper than a sword

Read it: Hebrews 4:12-13

Think about it:

Consider the phrase “living and active”. To you, what does that mean when you think about God’s Word being living and active?

Is the bible relevant for today—is it useful and valuable? What are some ways that the scriptures are useful for life in 2009? (ex. relationships, finances, decision-making, self-control, priorities, etc.)

Think of a time when God’s Word cut you, right to your heart on an issue. As you read your bible, what things in your life are you challenged to “uncover” and “lay bare” before God?

Act on it: Take a look at your memory verse again (Ephesians 4:29). Is there anyone you need to apologize to because of the way you spoke to them recently? We read last week about confessing sin to each other (James 5:16). If no one comes to mind, then instead of confessing, go to a friend/family member and tell them you are trying to apply Ephesians 4:29 (quote them the verse). Ask them to check back in with you this week to see how you are doing living that out.