

EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY

READING THE BIBLE FOR ALL ITS WORTH

INTRODUCTION

The goal of a Nextlevel group is to develop close and loyal friendships that will encourage and accelerate the spiritual growth (into Christlikeness) of each participant.

Some of that growth can take place during group time. However, much of it takes place between meetings as each person pursues a deeper relationship with our Lord.

That intentional pursuit will require meeting with God and listening to him as He speaks through his Word.

This daily discipline is indispensable for spiritual health and vitality. But it is also very challenging to be consistent at it – for (at least) **two reasons**:

Intro p.2

Two Reasons consistent daily Bible reading is challenging:

- 1) We tend to quickly forget how essential the Word is for our spiritual formation, and even our survival. We need to constantly reconsider and reinforce the reasons we need to read the Bible daily.**
- 2) We are immersed in a world of busy schedules and myriad distractions. The urgent crowds out the important. Our priorities get out of whack. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. We need help.**

So because of these realities, we call on the assistance of our group friends to keep us **focused on the reasons** and **faithful in our discipline**. This short series will seek to enable this.

OVERVIEW

Purpose: Christians follow a God who speaks. He continually communicates to us through his Spirit and his inspired written Word. The Bible, then, is the most valuable resource we have in knowing God and enjoying the new life He offers us through Christ.

The goal of this brief study-discussion is to consider the life-giving **benefits** of reading his words as a daily spiritual practice. The series will:

- ✦ Provide you with **incentives** to read your Bible daily.
- ✦ Explore **five ways** God's Word can enrich every day of your life.

Overview p.2

Method: This short series is designed for small group study and interaction. However, because this discipline is essential for our spiritual vitality, we will also utilize the power of between-meeting accountability to ensure biblical ideas become personal practices.

Outline:

WEEK ONE
Intro & Session 1

WEEK TWO
Sessions 2 & 3

WEEK THREE
Sessions 4 & 5

Part One



Introduction and Session One

Every Day in Every Way

Five WAYS to Perceive Daily Bible Reading

Nutrition

1

God's way to
SUSTAIN me

Inspiration

2

God's way to
MOTIVATE me

Connection

3

God's way to
MEET me

Education

4

God's way to
TEACH me

Direction

5

God's way to
GUIDE me

Every Day in Every Way

Five WAYS to Perceive Daily Bible Reading

Nutrition

1

God's way to
SUSTAIN me

- FEED –
- REFRESH –
- PROTECT –

Inspiration

2

God's way to
MOTIVATE me

- ENCOURAGE –
- CHALLENGE –
- ACTIVATE –

Connection

3

God's way to
MEET me

- LOVE –
- BEFRIEND –
- ASSURE –

Education

4

God's way to
TEACH me

- MATURE –
- EQUIP –
- STABILIZE –

Direction

5

God's way to
GUIDE me

- ENLIGHTEN –
- ORIENT –
- COUNSEL –

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“Every DAY in Every WAY”

FIRST WAY to Perceive Daily Bible Reading

NUTRITION (some metaphors)

The Bible provides us with

- ✦ **the spiritual FOOD and DRINK we need each day to sustain us, so we can survive and thrive**
- ✦ **the VITAMINS and MINERALS necessary for robust spiritual health, vitality and longevity**
- ✦ **the nutrients to build a strong IMMUNE SYSTEM to protect us from the virus of apathy, the cancer of immorality, and the heart disease of idolatry**

FIRST WAY to Perceive Daily Bible Reading

NUTRITION (some Scriptures, p1)

Give us this day our **daily** bread. [Mt 6:11] I am the **bread** of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry. [Jn 6:35] Man shall not live by *[physical]* bread alone, but by every **word** that comes from the mouth of God. [Mt 4:4]

Whoever drinks the **water** I give him will never thirst... it will become in him a **spring** of water welling up to eternal life. [Jn 4:14 Read Jn 7:38-39] You will draw water from the **wells of salvation**. [Isa 17:13] O God... my **soul** thirsts for you... in a dry and weary land where there is no water. [Ps 63:1]

Blessed is the man... He is like a tree planted by **streams of water**. [Ps 1:1-3]

Read Ps 1:1-3. Highlight the metaphors related to water, health, fruitfulness. Then find the promise(s) offered. *Discuss: Is this promise still valid for us today?*

FIRST WAY to Perceive Daily Bible Reading

NUTRITION (some Scriptures, p2)

Come all you who are **thirsty**, come to the **waters**... Hear me **that your soul may live**. [Isa 55:1;3]

Read Isaiah 55:1-3; 10-11. Go back through each verse and verbally highlight each use of the terms related to water, food, hunger, thirst, hearing/listening, God's word(s), and soul.

Now note any promise(s) made to those who ingest or engage in God's Word.
Discuss: Is this promise still valid for us today?

For further study: Read Jeremiah 2:11-13; 17:13; 1 Corinthians 10: 3-4

FIRST WAY to Perceive Daily Bible Reading

NUTRITION (summary)

The Bible is for **daily** consumption.

The Bible is **bread** for our spiritual hunger.

The Bible is **water** for our thirsty soul.

The Bible is **a well, a spring, a river** that nourishes our growth and fruitfulness.

The Bible is an absolute necessity for **life**.

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WHY

*Resolve to read
daily because...*

- ✦ it feeds your soul
- ✦ it satisfies your deepest and truest longings
- ✦ it spiritually sustains you and fortifies you

The NUTRITION Prayer

Sample Prayer

Lord, thank You for your Word. As I open it, I acknowledge my need for You to feed my soul with everything it needs for health and vitality. Your words are life. They sustain me. They're like daily manna from heaven. Please fill me.

Lord, these Scriptures are like living water that quenches my spiritual thirst in this dry and weary land. Please satisfy my deepest longings.

HOW

*Regularly practice
this pre-reading
prayer habit*

- ✦ **pray a similar prayer every time you pick up your Bible to read**
- ✦ **this will reinforce your reasons to read daily**

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DISCUSS

Implications and Applications

1. Which metaphor about the Bible being an essential source of NUTRITION most resonated with you?
(e.g., the Bible is like... food for hunger, water for thirst, vitamins for health and vitality, a daily feast for your soul, a well/stream/fountain, etc)

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Implications and Applications

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2. How is God speaking to you through the Scriptures we just read?

DISCUSS

Implications and Applications

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2. How is God speaking to you through the Scriptures we just read?
3. How could this pre-Bible reading prayer help motivate and focus you in the discipline of daily Bible reading?

APPLY

Being Doers of the Word

1. Make a firm personal decision to read your Bible for **FIVE DAYS** this week.
2. Before each Bible reading...
 - a) review the benefits discussed for Way #1: **NUTRITION**
 - b) recite the sample prayer

HELP

Challenging and Affirming Mutual Accountability

1. Pair up with a different partner from your group each week for the next **FIVE WEEKS**.
2. Upon completing your Bible reading, text “Done” to each other every day for **FIVE DAYS**.

Recommendation: take **FIVE MINUTES** to share the Scripture you read and add one simple “takeaway” from your reading.

3. During your group time, take **FIVE MINUTES** to report to one another on your progress, and to get a new partner.

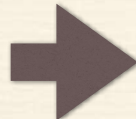
A Recommended Weekly Plan

**MONDAY
to
FRIDAY**



SCHEDULE a time to read your **BIBLE**. Begin with a goal of 20 minutes. Don't miss a single day. But if you do, then just pick up again the next day.

SATURDAY



ENJOY God in other ways, like nature, family time, or reading a Christian **BOOK**.

SUNDAY



LISTEN intently to God's Word at **CHURCH**. Review the sermon text later or on Monday.

ACTION

SUMMARY

1. Read the Bible FIVE DAYS per week for FIVE WEEKS.
2. Take FIVE MINUTES to distill one “takeaway” and share it by text with your accountability partner.
3. Commit FIVE MINUTES of your group time to affirm and challenge one another’s progress.

Every Day in Every Way

Enjoy a
delicious and
healthy
spiritual feast
every day!

They ate to the full and were
well nourished; they revelled in
Your great goodness.

Nehemiah 9:25



“Every DAY in Every WAY”

Nutrition REVIEW

1

God's way to
SUSTAIN me

– FEED –
– REFRESH –
– PROTECT –

THIS WEEK

we learned how God
uses daily Bible reading

#1 to sustain our
spiritual life by feeding
and strengthening us.

“Every DAY in Every WAY”

Nutrition REVIEW

1

God’s way to
SUSTAIN me

- FEED –
- REFRESH –
- PROTECT –

Motivation PREVIEW

2

God’s way to
INSPIRE me

- ENCOURAGE –
- CHALLENGE –
- ACTIVATE –

Connection PREVIEW

3

God’s way to
MEET me

- LOVE –
- BEFRIEND –
- ENJOY –

NEXT WEEK

we’ll discover how God
uses daily Bible reading
#2 to inspire our faith
and incite us to action,
#3 to meet with us and
deepen our personal
relationship with Him.

