

The Word



How long can we survive without eating?

1 Day 3 Days 10 Days 20 Days 40 Days 60 Days

If you checked "1 day," then *you never missed a meal in your life!*

- No, it's not even 10 or 20 days. We can survive 40 days without food. After that, our bodies begin to starve and death is not far off.
- Just as our physical body needs food to grow and survive, our spirit also needs to be fed.

*"...man does not live by bread alone,
but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."*
Deuteronomy 8:3, ESV

❖ Underline what we need for life – in addition to food.



- ◆ Food gives strength to our physical bodies.
- ◆ Similarly, God's Word gives us power to live a victorious Christian life.

This Lesson Is About...

- 📖 The **Source** of the Word
- 📖 The **Purpose** of the Word
- 📖 The **Power** of the Word
- 📖 The **Application** of the Word

The Source of the Word

*"But know this first of all, that
no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for
no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will,
but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."*
2 Peter 1:20-21, NASB

- ❖ Underline *two* ways prophecy did not come.
- ❖ Circle who is the Source of the Word.

God guided the authors of the Bible about what to write. They didn't come up with the ideas themselves.

The Purpose of the Word

*"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples,
which are not written in this book;
But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that by believing you may have life in His name."*
John 20:30-31, ESV

- ❖ Circle why the book of John was written.
- ❖ Underline what happens when we "*believe that Jesus is the Christ.*"
 - ◆ The disciple John wrote the Gospel of John so people would believe in Jesus.
 - ◆ The disciple John later wrote 1 John so people who believed in Jesus would know they had eternal life. See 1 John 5:13.



Fun Facts About the Bible

- ❖ Written by about **40 men** over a period of 1600 years (**1500 B.C. to A.D. 100**).
- ❖ The authors had a variety of occupations, including:
 - ~ **Shepherd / King** (David)
 - ~ **Prophet** (Isaiah)
 - ~ **Priest** (Ezra)
 - ~ **Tax collector** (Matthew)
 - ~ **Doctor** (Luke)
 - ~ **Fishermen** (Peter, John)
 - ~ **Tent maker** (Paul)
- ❖ **First major book** printed in Europe on new Gutenberg printing press in 1455.
- ❖ **Best-selling** and most widely distributed book of all time.
- ❖ **Most translated book** in the world (at least one book of the Bible translated into over 2,400 languages).

❓ *How long does
1 Peter 1:24-25 say the
Word of God will last?*

"The **Bible**
is either absolute,
or it's obsolete."

~ Leonard Ravenhill

The **BIBLE** is...

BASIC
INSTRUCTIONS
BEFORE
LEAVING
EARTH

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16-17, NKJV

- ❖ Circle how *much* Scripture is inspired by God.
This verse teaches that all of the Bible *originates from God!*
- ❖ Underline the result of applying the Word to our life.
- ❖ Frame how *many* "good works" we will be "equipped for."

 Write **FOUR** ways 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says Scripture is profitable.

- _____ ▶ **instructing** us in the Truth of God
- _____ ▶ **convicting** us of the Truth of God
- _____ ▶ **restoring** us to the Truth of God
- _____ ▶ **teaching** us how to live the Truth of God

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

Romans 15:4, ESV

- ❖ Underline why the Bible was "*written*."
- ❖ Frame what "*endurance*" and "*encouragement of the Scriptures*" bring.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105, NKJV

- ❖ Underline *two* descriptions of what God's Word is like.



A flashlight helps you safely find your way when it is dark. In the same way, the Bible is like a lamp or a light which helps you "see" to make wise decisions.

*"How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to Your word."*

Psalm 119:9, ESV

- ❖ Underline how to keep your way pure.

"Beware of reasoning about God's Word – obey it." ~ Oswald Chambers

The Power of the Word

*And the tempter [Satan] came and said to Him [Jesus],
"If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."
But He answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

Matthew 4:3-4, ESV

- ❖ Circle what Satan said to Jesus.
 - ❖ Underline how Jesus responded to Satan's temptation.
- Notice how Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3 – the passage on the first page of this lesson. Because Jesus was already familiar with this verse, He was able to quote it when tempted.

"In regard to this Great Book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man.

All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book.

But for it we could not know right from wrong.

All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it."

~ Abraham Lincoln



"I have for many years made it a practice to read through the Bible once every year."

~ John Quincy Adams

? Can you think of a time when God's Word gave you direction to make a decision?

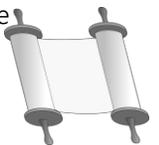
"Were it not for tribulation, I should not understand the Scriptures."

~ Martin Luther

See **Psalm 119:67, 71**

"The Bible was the only book Jesus ever quoted, and then never as a basis for discussion but to decide the point at issue."

~ Leon Morris

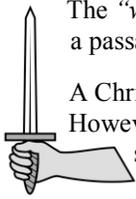


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"Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."
Ephesians 6:17, NIV

- ❖ Circle how the "word of God" is described in Ephesians 6:17.



The "word of God" is the only offensive weapon listed in Ephesians 6:11-17, a passage about the Armor of God.

A Christian who studies the Bible can use it to defeat his spiritual enemies. However, a Christian who is not familiar with the Bible has a weapon closer to the size of a *pocket knife* instead of a *sword*!

The Application of the Word

Memorize

*"I have hidden Your word in my heart
that I might not sin against You."*

Psalm 119:11, NIV

- ❖ Circle where we should hide God's Word.
- ❖ Underline what God's Word helps us avoid doing.

"Hidden" means to *hide* or *treasure*.

- ◆ God's Word should be hidden in our hearts because we *treasure* it!

"Heart" refers to our *mind, soul, conscience, emotions, passions, will, and desires*.

- ◆ Memorizing the Bible is more than a mental exercise. It should affect your entire life.



Meditate

Meditating on God's Word involves repeatedly reviewing a passage to absorb all the spiritual "nutrients" in it. One way is to:

- **Recite** a verse over and over in your mind. Then...
- **Emphasize** a different word each time to see how that word adds to the meaning of the entire verse.

*"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor stands in the path of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of the scornful.*

*But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.
He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,
that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither;
and whatever he does shall prosper."*

Psalm 1:1-3, NKJV



- ❖ Circle the *one word* in *Psalm 1* that describes the person who keeps himself from the *ungodly, sinners, and scornful*.
- ❖ Underline *where* this person finds his "**delight**."
- ❖ Frame what he does with God's Word.
- ❖ Underline what this person is compared to.
- ❖ Circle the result of this person's lifestyle.

"When you think about a problem over and over in your mind, that's called WORRY. When you think about God's Word over and over in your mind, that's MEDITATION.

If you know how to WORRY, you already know how to MEDITATE!"

~ Rick Warren



Hebrews 4:12

? Why do you think the Word of God is described as the "sword of the Spirit?"

"The Bible will keep you from Sin,
OR
Sin will keep you from the Bible."
~ Dwight Moody

? How does hiding God's Word in our hearts keep us from sinning?

A Way to Memorize

- 📖 **Read** the verse 3 times.
- 📖 **Write** the verse 3 times.
- 📖 **Recite** the verse from memory 3 times.
- 📖 **Review** every day for the next 10 days.

"Gather the riches of
God's promises.
Nobody can take away from
you those texts from the Bible
which you have
learned by  Heart."
~ Corrie ten Boom

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*"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.
Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies.
I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.
I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts."*

Psalm 119:97-100, NIV

- ❖ Circle how often the Psalmist meditated on God's Word.
- ❖ Underline what happens when we always keep God's commands with us.
- ❖ Circle how we can have more insight than our teachers.
- ❖ Underline the way to have more understanding than our elders.

*"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth,
but you shall meditate on it day and night,
so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.
For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."*

Joshua 1:8, ESV



- ❖ Circle *two* times we are to "*meditate*" on Scripture.
- ❖ Underline *two* benefits of meditating and obeying Scripture.



These verses teach that *obeying* and *meditating* on God's Word are key to our success.

Application

*"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves.
Do what it says."*

James 1:22, NIV

- ❖ Underline what people who "*merely listen to the Word*" do to themselves.
- ❖ Frame what we should "*do*" with the Word.

"Why do you call me [Jesus] 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

Luke 6:46, ESV

- ❖ Underline what these people were *not* doing.
 - ◆ It is hypocritical to call Jesus our Lord (or Master) but not obey Him.
 - ◆ Our actions speak louder than our words!

*"Study to show thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth."*

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV

We study God's Word by reading, memorizing, and meditating on it.
Studying is *work*, but it enables us to become "workmen" who are not ashamed.

- ❖ Circle what we are to "*rightly divide*."
"*Rightly dividing*" means you accurately understand and apply the word of God.

We began by thinking how **often** we need to **eat to survive**.

- Just as we need daily nourishment for a **healthy body**,
we also need daily intake of God's Word to ensure a **healthy Spiritual life**.
- Too many Christians only hear God's Word once a week – on Sundays.

Make it a habit to
READ, MEMORIZE, MEDITATE, and APPLY
God's Word ... EVERY DAY



*"The law of Your mouth
is better to me
than thousands
of gold and
silver pieces."*



~ Psalm 119:72, ESV



"A Bible that's
falling apart
usually belongs
to someone who isn't."

~ Charles Spurgeon

"The Bible was not given
for our information,
but our transformation."

~ Dwight Moody

"Beware of reasoning about
God's Word – obey it."

~ Oswald Chambers

? *What type of foundation
results from "hearing" and
"doing" what the Bible says?
See **Matthew 7:24-27**.*

PRAYER

*Dear Lord, thank you
for giving us the Bible.
Help us make it a
priority to study,
memorize, meditate,
and apply it. Amen.*

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