

# When God Gets Personal with His Word

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## Announcement: Life Journals

We're encouraging every single person to get a Life Journal. It is a notebook that contains a daily bible reading schedule along with sections to record what God is teaching you. This is a tool to help you make your spiritual growth personal. You'll have a record of what God says to you. Life Journals cost just \$5.00 and are currently available on Sunday mornings in the Atrium. Student and children's versions are also available.

## Scripture

### **Psalm 119:97-100 (New International Version)**

<sup>97</sup> Oh, how I love your law!

I meditate on it all day long.

<sup>98</sup> Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,  
for they are ever with me.

<sup>99</sup> I have more insight than all my teachers,  
for I meditate on your statutes.

<sup>100</sup> I have more understanding than the elders,  
for I obey your precepts.

## Opening Question

Today as we're talking about God's word, tell one of your favorite verses or passages or when you first started reading the Bible seriously.

## Digging for Truth

1. Les shared that there are four different levels of development in our Christian walk. Listen to these four and just silently answer for yourself where you are:
  - a. Exploring Christianity
  - b. Beginning Christians
  - c. Growing in their relationship with Jesus daily
  - d. Christ-centered person who sees God's word as the filter for life

Where would you like to be at this point in your life?

2. Les talked about downloading and processing God's word. Would someone share with the group how you download and process God's word?
3. We can have different kinds of learning wisdom:
  - a. We can learn from our mistakes.
  - b. We can learn from the mistakes of others.
  - c. We can learn from the lives of others throughout time.

Which of these would you want to have? We can have timeless wisdom by reading God's word.

Tell one mistake you've made and what others could learn by looking at your life.

Name one Bible character and something you can learn from their life?

4. Listen as I read the following passages and make some observations about God's word after I read them all.

**Hebrews 4:12**

<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

**Romans 15:4**

<sup>4</sup>For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

**1 Cor. 10:11, 6**

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

<sup>11</sup>These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.

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**2 Timothy 3:16**

<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

5. Lesson Number One is this: ***Spiritual growth comes as I practice wise behaviors consistently.***

In what areas of your life are you consistent?

In what areas would you like to be more consistent?

What are the spiritual behaviors or disciplines that help us grow? (Bible reading, prayer, etc.)

6. Les said that spending time in God's word and hearing God through His word is something that no one else can do for you. Why do you believe this to be true?
7. Les talked about how reading God's word can actually save us time. How can you picture that being true?
8. We should spend time in God's word when we are at our best. For some that is morning, for some midday, for others in the evening or night? Ask the group what time would be best for them.

It would also be good to have a specific place to spend time with God. Where would you do this?

9. Ask someone in the group to share what type reading plan they are on. Reading plans can vary by your time commitment. Here are some options:

- a. Life Journal Plan – through the Bible in an entire year. (4-5 chapters a day)
- b. Life Journal Half Plan – read only the New Testament portion of each day. (1-2 chapter a day)
- c. Life Journal Half Plan, OT – read only the Old Testament portion of each day (3-4 chapters)
- d. Key Passages – Visit [WestwoodGroups.com](http://WestwoodGroups.com) for a plan that takes you through the entire Bible in one year. (1 chapter a day)
- e. Many other plans are available online.

10. Discuss the outline below and discuss any questions:

- a. Scripture – Read the word
- b. Observation – What does it say
- c. Application – How do I apply it to my life
- d. Prayer – Ask God to help you apply it successfully

11. Handle distractions during your time with God by having paper and pen separately to record your to do list for later. It will help your mind focus on Scripture.

What other distractions might we have and how can we handle them?

### **Closing Thought**

Ask the group to make some commitment to spend time in God's word, even if it is just five minutes. Share your commitment with the group.