



## Unit 1: FOUNDATIONS

### Class 2: How to Read the Bible

#### Preparing to Study the Bible: A Personal Assessment

##### INTRODUCTION

The Bible occupies a unique place in the life of the Christian. It is not merely a religious book, but the very Word of God given to guide, instruct, and transform His people. Scripture reminds us that *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”* (2 Timothy 3:16–17). Because of this, every believer is called not only to read the Bible, but to grow in understanding it and applying it to life.

At the same time, many Christians find personal Bible reading and study challenging. Some struggle with where to begin. Others find certain passages difficult to understand. Still others desire to go deeper but feel they have never been shown how to study the Scriptures in a clear and systematic way. Yet the Bible itself commends those who examine it carefully, like the Bereans who *“received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so”* (Acts 17:11).

The purpose of this questionnaire is to help us better understand your **experience, expectations, and challenges** with reading and studying the Bible. Your responses will help shape our **Core Classes on Reading and Studying the Bible**, allowing the course to address the real needs of those participating. Our desire is that these classes will help each of us grow in our ability to handle the Word of God faithfully, following Paul’s exhortation to *“rightly handle the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15).

This assessment is **not a test**, and there are no right or wrong answers. We are not evaluating your knowledge of the Bible. Instead, we are seeking an honest picture of how participants currently approach Scripture. Please answer the questions as truthfully as possible based on your own experience.

Our prayer is that through these classes, each of us will grow in our love for the Scriptures, deepen our understanding of God’s Word, and learn to apply it more faithfully in our lives.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete this assessment.

## Background and Experience

1. How long have you been a Christian?

- Less than 1 year
- 1–5 years
- 6–10 years
- More than 10 years

2. How often do you currently read the Bible?

- Daily
- Several times a week
- Once a week
- Occasionally
- Rarely

3. How often do you intentionally **study** the Bible (not just read it)?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Never

4. Have you ever received **formal training** in how to study the Bible?

- Yes
- No

If yes, briefly describe:

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Please indicate how strongly you agree with the following statements.:

- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Neutral

4 = Agree

5 = Strongly Agree

Understanding the different stages or administrations in God's plan (for example, Israel, the Church, and the future kingdom) helps us interpret the Bible more accurately.

1  2  3  4  5

Distinguishing between God's promises to Israel and His instructions for the Church is important for correctly interpreting Scripture.

1  2  3  4  5

## **Beliefs About the Bible**

Please indicate how strongly you agree with the following statements.

1 = Strongly Disagree

2 = Disagree

3 = Neutral

4 = Agree

5 = Strongly Agree

The Bible is the Word of God.

1  2  3  4  5

The Bible is the final authority for faith and life.

1  2  3  4  5

Every Christian should personally study the Bible.

1  2  3  4  5

The Bible can be understood by ordinary believers with careful study.

1  2  3  4  5

The main goal of Bible study is personal transformation, not just information.

1  2  3  4  5

## **Current Practices**

When you read the Bible, what do you usually do? (Check all that apply)

Read a devotional

Follow a Bible reading plan

Read randomly

Study a specific book of the Bible

Use study tools (commentaries, dictionaries, etc.)

- Take notes
- Discuss with others

What Bible study tools do you normally use?

- Study Bible
- Commentary
- Bible dictionary
- Concordance
- Bible apps
- None

### **Difficulties in Bible Study**

What are your greatest **difficulties** when reading or studying the Bible? (Check up to three)

- Understanding difficult passages
- Knowing where to start
- Lack of time
- Lack of discipline
- Not knowing how to interpret the text
- Connecting the Bible to daily life
- Understanding historical/cultural background
- Staying consistent
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What parts of the Bible do you find most difficult to understand?

- Old Testament history
- Prophecy
- Wisdom literature
- The Gospels
- Paul's letters
- Revelation
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

When you read the Bible, how often do you feel confident you understand the passage?

- Almost always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely

### **Expectations for This Course**

What do you hope to gain from this class? (Check all that apply)

- Learn how to study the Bible more effectively
- Understand Scripture more clearly
- Grow spiritually
- Become more consistent in Bible reading
- Learn how to teach others
- Answer difficult questions about the Bible

What would make this course most helpful to you?

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Is there a specific question about the Bible you have always wanted answered?

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### **Personal Reflection**

In one sentence, describe your current relationship with the Bible.

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What would you like your Bible study life to look like one year from now?

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