



Week 4 – A Life Obeying Jesus

A life of obeying God is a life centered around the knowledge, understanding, and application of the Scriptures to daily life. It includes actually doing what the Word of God instructs us to do.

Seeking to bridge the huge gap between “what we know” and “what we do” Pastor Craig shared effective approaches to studying, understanding, and applying the Word / three different approaches, one common and two that are levels up.

- One approach is to “read the Bible in a year.”
- Second level is exegeting the scripture: we learn about history, traditions, knowledge-based info from Sunday school and traditional Bible study.
- Third level is allowing scripture to read us and how we apply what we've read and studied.

Supporting Scripture:

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for instruction, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work. . . . 2 timothy 3:16-17

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

Behaviors Reflecting A Life Obeying Jesus:

- Daily study of the Scriptures.
- Journaling about what we're learning and how we're applying it.
- Obedience to the Word of God (doing what it says, just like Jesus did).

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- George Barna writes, “We consistently choose different role models, ignore our consultant, fail to read the manual, pursue our personal preferences and measures, and refuse the input and accountability available from support groups.” How well do you think this describes our congregation?
- As a group, try the SOAP Method (a journaling tool) for the Scripture passage John 1:1-14.
 - Scripture (John 1:1-14)
 - Observations
 - Application
 - Prayer based on observations and application
- For the same passage try the Journalist’s approach. Answer the Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How questions.
- What practices have you found most helpful for studying and applying Scripture to life?
- Obeying God includes doing what we are told. How are you living into the imperative to “Go, therefore, and make disciples”?

Bible Study Resources:

What Bible version should I use? Pastor Craig teaches from a variety of different Bible translations, including: *The New International Version (NIV)*, *New Living Translation (NLT)*, *English Standard Version (ESV)* and the *Message (MSG)*.

What extra materials are helpful? Warren Weirsbe’s *Bible Exposition* and “Be Series” are helpful. If you’re looking for a Bible, *The Life Application Bible* is a great tool for new bible students. *The Daily Bible* is great if you’d like to read through the Bible in a year.

What do I need to know before starting? It is helpful to choose a consistent time of day to read. If you miss a day, don’t panic and quit. If you aren’t a great reader, you can download daily bible readings. Search under daily bible readings to download. Also when reading a book of the Bible, it is helpful to find a study bible that offers a short explanation about the context of each book. You’ll want to know who wrote the book, who it was written to, and why it was written.

What websites are helpful?

- www.youversion.com is a great tool to interact with God's word.
- Other good sites include: www.studylight.org, www.biblegateway.com, www.crosswalk.com, www.biblestudy.org

Where do I start? You don't have to read the Bible from beginning to end on your first time. The Bible is sixty-six books. John's gospel in the New Testament is a great place to start. Some enjoy reading one chapter of Proverbs each day for a month. Spend time learning the New Testament. Once you understand the basics of the New Testament, you'll be blessed by the richness of the Old Testament. Don't feel overwhelmed. You have the rest of your life to get to know God through his word. Start with baby steps. If you need some extra help you might read *A Beginner's Guide to Reading the Bible* by Craig Koester or *A Beginner's Guide to Studying the Bible* by Rolf Aaseng