

The Scripture Practice

How To Read the Bible as an Apprentice of Jesus

Week Five = STUDY

Introduction Questions:

01 What was your experience of engaging with Scripture through Lectio Divina?

02 Of the four movements of engaging with Scripture through Lectio, which movements felt most natural or challenging to you?

03 What arose in your heart and imagination as you read, meditated, prayed, and contemplated?

04 In the teaching, a fifth movement of “incarnation” was shared. Did you have any opportunities to live out what you were reading this week? If so, how did that deepen the meaning of that Scripture for you?

Discussion Questions:

01 As you listened, what resonated with your heart and mind? Were there moments you experienced resistance or your perspective was challenged?

02 What is one word to describe your initial feeling toward the idea of studying Scripture (e.g., duty, curiosity, overwhelm, etc.)? Why did you choose that word?

03 Who is an example of someone in your life who has been positively formed through the study of Scripture? What do you want to consider from their example as you approach studying Scripture this week?

04 If studying Scripture risks becoming about intellectual curiosity rather than fostering a deeper love for Jesus, what signs can help us recognize when we are leaning toward one or the other?

Play Teaching Video - Summary

- The Bible is a library, consisting of diverse authors, languages, and literary genres, making it complex and sometimes challenging to understand.
- Misunderstanding Scripture can lead to significant harm, while accurate interpretation can profoundly enrich our lives.
- Jesus dedicated much of his teaching to correcting common misreadings of Scripture, highlighting the importance of proper understanding.

- Study involves the careful application of our mind and heart to learn what the text says, its meaning for the original audience, and its relevance for us today.
- Although study may seem less “spiritual” than practices like Lectio Divina, it is a vital spiritual discipline when motivated by a desire to know and love God.
- This session will focus on the discipline of study as a crucial aspect of engaging with Scripture.

Watch Story and Exercise Video

EXERCISE:

- First, choose a passage or theme of Scripture, ideally one that you find your heart drawn to but don’t yet understand, or one that you feel an aversion to, either because you don’t understand it or you’re scared you do.
- Study it in a thoughtful, loving, and prayerful way. Here are a few ways you can study your chosen passage:
 - Listen to teaching(s) on the passage.
 - Watch an overview of the passage on BibleProject.com
 - Utilize a study bible. Follow the notes and footnotes connected to that passage.
 - Read through a few commentaries or study resources. We have a helpful list of suggestions in the appendix for you.
 - Attend a Bible study or class through your church or online through “BibleProject Classroom” (link.practicingtheway.org/scripture-3a)
- Start your own library. You may want to begin with the following resources:
 - A Study Bible
 - A Bible dictionary
 - A commentary set
 - A book or two on hermeneutics
 - For a specific list of recommendations see our “Recommended Reading” in the Continue the Journey section of this Guide (p. 97).
- As you study, here are a few tips:
 - 01 Study with your whole heart, not just your left brain. Pray before, during, and after. Pause when you are moved by an idea or insight and let it seep into you deeply and spill into conversation with God.
 - 02 Take notes. Write down what you learn.
 - 03 Share what you learn with someone else, as the act of speaking out what you learn leaves an imprint on your memory.