



## Session 2

*"I pray also...that you may know...his incomparably great power for us who believe."  
Ephesians 1:18-19*

To experience God's power in our lives there are certain "power tools" we need to use.  
In this study you will learn how to use the tool of God's Word.

### OPENING

Guess what type of book each person in your group is most likely to read?

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| A. Mystery         | D. Western   |
| B. Romance         | E. Self-Help |
| C. Science Fiction | F. History   |

### BIBLE STUDY

Read Hebrews 4:12

1. How is the Bible described? In your own words, what does this verse mean?
2. According to each of the following passages, what does the Bible accomplish in our lives?  
Psalm 119:9-16  
Psalm 119:97-105  
2 Timothy 3:16-17  
John 8:31-32
3. From what you have studied, what is the value of reading and studying the Bible?
4. What can keep you from studying the Bible regularly?

## APPLICATION How to Study Your Bible

There are many ways to study the Bible. So, the method being taught here is not the only way to study the Bible, but it is a good way to start. As you begin to feel comfortable with this method, you can start to experiment with other methods and tools for study. You can find a helpful list of resources to help you further develop this “power tool” in the Resources section at the end of this study.

### Start by Reading:

Pick a passage to read. The length of the passage is up to you. We recommend that you read enough to make a complete thought. It may be just a few verses, a paragraph, or a chapter.

**For practice, read Jesus’ parable in Matthew 7:24-27.** A parable is a story Jesus uses to illustrate a point.

**Observe:** Ask who, what, where and how questions.

- a. What is the context? What is the parable meant to illustrate?
- b. Who is involved? Who do they represent?
- c. What do the houses represent?
- d. What action is being affirmed in the parable?
- e. What is the point? What is Jesus instructing us to do?

**Probe for meaning:** Ask “why” questions.

- a. Why is Jesus teaching this parable? Why might he feel it’s necessary?
- b. If the houses represent our lives, why does one house stand and the other fall?

**Apply:** What are the lessons to be learned? Use the “4 C’s”

*“Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.**” James 1:22*

God uses the Bible to teach us lessons that apply to our unique life situations. This means that two people can study the same passage and learn different lessons, or the same person can learn new lessons from the same passage. The important thing is to let God’s Word speak to you. Sometimes it will be convicting, other times it will be challenging or inspiring. The key is to allow the Bible to shape you even when the lesson is difficult. Once you discover the lesson, then “do what it says.” God’s Word gives you power only when you take action on it.

The “4 C’s” are a helpful tool for learning lessons from a Bible passage. After reading a passage, ask the following questions.

- a. Celebrate:  
*Is there anything you have learned from this passage that you can celebrate?*
- b. Confess:  
*Is there anything you have learned from this passage that has convicted you and that you need to confess to God?*
- c. Commit:  
*Is there anything you have learned that you need to make a commitment to doing?*
- d. Communicate:  
*Is there anything in this passage that could help someone you know if you shared it with them?*

After answering the 4 C questions, the final question is: What are you going to do about it? What concrete steps of action are you going to take today, this week, or this month as a result of what God has said to you through His Word?

Additional Tips:

- **Practice:** Your ability to study the Bible will improve with practice. As you get comfortable, try other methods to keep your study fresh and creative.
- **Do it regularly:** Like physical exercise, you'll get the most benefit from frequency.
- **Set a time:** Your life is busy. If you plan to study the Bible "sometime" during the day when you can find a "few free moments," that time will never come.
- **It's not a duty, it's an opportunity:** If you see Bible study as a duty, something to be checked off your "Being a Good Christian" check list, you'll never stick with it. But when you see Bible study as an opportunity to let the power of God fill your life and transform you, you'll be motivated.
- **Get help:** You're going to have a lot of questions. If you want to learn and grow, don't ignore your questions, seek answers. Owning a study Bible, a Bible dictionary, and a basic commentary can go a long way in getting you started. Then, be part of a small group of people who are hungry to learn and grow and eager to help you do the same.

## PRAYER

Use the lessons and commitments that were just shared to pray for each other. Use the "Celebrate" section of the "4 C's" to begin your prayers with praise.

## PERSONAL GROWTH

Now continue using this tool during the week using the passages below and the "4 C's" questions. Remember, this is a tool God uses to empower and transform your life, but only if you use it consistently.

This week we recommend that you read Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible. It is about the power of God's Word in our lives. As you read, look for all the ways God's Word is described, all the ways it is studied, and all the benefits it offers.

### The 4 C's

*CELEBRATE: What can you praise God for from this passage?*

*CONFESS: Does this passage convict you of something you need to confess to God?*

*COMMIT: What commitment does this passage challenge you to make?*

*COMMUNICATE: What did you learn that you could share with someone else?*

Day 1: Psalm 119:1-32

Day 2: Psalm 119:33-72

Day 3: Psalm 119:73-112

Day 4: Psalm 119:113-144

Day 5: Psalm 119:145-176

## Helpful Resources for Bible Study

**A good Study Bible** with commentary on verses can be a huge help.

There are a number of great study Bible's available but our favorites are the:

- New International Study Bible by Zondervan
- Life Application Bible by Zondervan

**A Bible commentary** can also be very helpful.

For the New Testament, some great, easy to understand commentaries are the:

- Life Application Bible Commentary by Tyndale
- Tyndale New Testament Commentaries by Eerdmans
- IVP New Testament Commentary by InterVarsity Press

**A daily devotional book** that includes a scripture passage to read can be a great way to study your Bible. An example would be our [StressBusters: 40 Days with the Shepherd](#) daily devotional which can be purchased from [faithalive365.com](http://faithalive365.com). You can also use small group studies as a daily Bible study by studying a section of a weekly study each day. Many of our Faith Alive 365 small group studies, like this one, include daily scripture passages to study.

A helpful book on **Bible study methods** is "Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods" by Zondervan.

### *The Unshakeable Faith Series*

#### **Start Strong** (4 weeks)

Learn what every Christian needs to know about their new faith in Jesus and how it will make you strong.

#### **Power Up** (4 weeks)

Learn how to use God-given tools for developing an unshakeable faith. If you want to experience God's best every day, these tools are indispensable.

#### **Break Free** (4 weeks)

Learn how to break sin habits and deal with the temptations that can choke out God's best for your life.