



The Scripture Practice

READING SCRIPTURE.

Jesus was a rabbi, or a teacher, of the Torah — the Bible of his day. This means his mind and imagination were *saturated* in Scripture. If you listen to his teachings, you'll notice they are full of quotes, allusions, metaphors, and hyperlinks back to the Hebrew Bible.

Our goal is to read Scripture as apprentices of Jesus. This means we don't read it the way we read an online article or textbook chapter or even a literary novel. We're less looking for *information* & more looking for *formation* - being formed into people who have hearts like God.

So our goal isn't just to read Scripture, but to meet Jesus on the page. To believe him - and to be with him, to become like him, and to be formed into people who live out what we read. Or as Jesus put it, "to obey everything I have commanded you."

When we take time to be saturated in Scripture like Jesus was... when we take time to intentionally be in the Word each day with the heart of an apprentice/disciple, we allow God to inform our day. We let our foundation be one of truth, humility, and reliance on Jesus. We're "continuing to believe" by letting the words be first & foremost in our minds, hearts, and mornings... with gobs of other believers across the globe.

IN THE BIBLE.

MATTHEW 5:17-19

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 28:20

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

JOHN 20:30-31

The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

QUESTIONS.

Feel free to talk through some or all of these questions

- 1.) What sticks out to you in the verses above?
- 2.) Do you resonate more with reading Scripture for information or formation? Why?
- 3.) Would you consider yourself more of a left-brain person (analytical, rational) or right-brain person (intuitive, symbolic)? How has that impacted the way you read Scripture?
- 4.) How can you practice reading Scripture this week? Adding more time? Removing some distraction? How can you enrich your time in the Word this week?

TAKE TEN:

- How did you see God work in your life this week?
- What has God been teaching you in His Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?
- What good can you do around here? (in your life/circumstance)
- How can we help you in prayer and what do you want us to ask you about next week?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?