

	<p><b>STUDY GUIDE</b> for the week of October 19, 2008</p>	<p><b>BYOB</b> - Did you bring your own Bible? Brad Watson</p>
		<p>...for the word of God is living and active...sharper than any double-edged sword...it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow...it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12</p>

**OPEN IN PRAYER**

**A TIME OF WORSHIP** (Optional) - You may want to sing a hymn or chorus.

**INTRODUCTION**

There are three questions/issues for anyone who wants to spend time reading the Bible, whether as an individual or as a group. The first is simply, why would I want to read the Bible? The second is how should I study the Bible so that I understand what it is saying? Lastly, what kind of practice should I develop to help me apply the Bible to my life?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Begin by reading Psalm 19, 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

1. Have you ever met someone who claims to be a Christ-follower, who is desperate for changing in an area of his/her life, but remains the same? Explain.
2. According to Psalm 19 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17 there are certain benefits to reading God's Word. Can you list them from these two passages? What benefits have you experienced in your life?
3. How have you found Bible study or reading most meaningful? (If you haven't had a lot of experience in Bible study or reading, focus on how you would want to grow into it and listen to others who have been at it for awhile.)
4. One of the purposes of the Bible is to transform us and grow us. Name one area that you are desperate to see the Bible change you.
5. Describe what kind of Bible reading routine you have these days? (Or wished you had, if you had the ideal schedule, place and time. What would it include?) Brad talked about three key opportunities to meet God in this time - Bible reading, Prayer and Journaling (writing out a record of what God is saying to you through His talking to you and you talking to Him). Is there a next step in your Bible reading you need to take to keep it fresh? Share it with someone so they can hold you accountable.

**MOVING FORWARD**

John Wesley came to a pivotal point in his life when he prayed, "*homo unius libri*" - God make me a man of one book. The way he made sure that he was an answer to his own prayer was by making time for Bible reading. He just didn't try to squeeze it in. John Wesley made what some have called a "private pact" with God, a sacred vow not to go another day without reading some portion of his Word. Have you made such a pact with God? What would your private pact look like? What would keep you from that today?

**CHANGING YOUR MIND**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.  
2 Tim. 3:16-17

**CLOSING PRAYER**