

## How do I get more from the Bible?

### Discussion Questions:

1. What's the difference between a good sermon and a not-so-good sermon?
2. What are the main reasons Christians fail to read their Bibles regularly?

### ***Why Christians want to “get more” from Bible reading***

Many Christians (and people in general) assert that they want to read the Bible more than they do. When they list the top reasons for not reading the Bible, we begin to see a pattern. Perhaps some think they lack discipline. Many think they may lack the time. Others so they lack sufficient resources like good devotional guides.

I think there's a more subtle and significant reason. I've said it before in Trellis. That reason is simple but devastating: they just don't get much out of the Bible the few times they do read it, so why should they spend more time reading it?

### ***Two Famous Bible Stories***

Consider these famous stories from the Old and New Testaments.

Story #1: Joseph and Potiphar's Wife (Genesis 30)

Story #2: Peter's Denial of Jesus Christ (Mark 14:66-72)

For each of these stories, please read it aloud or silently at your table. Then as a group, come up with answers for these questions.

1. Who's the main character in the story?
2. What's the main point of the story?
3. What should Christians today try to take away from the story?

## ***How to get more from the Bible? Don't try so hard.***

Problem: We often approach the Bible with the wrong starting question in mind. Most Christians today think the Bible was given to address this question: What does God have to say about me and my life?

A Different Orientation: What if we took a different approach? What if we started with the idea that the Bible is not about me, or us, or how to live a moral life, or even a godly life? What if we started with the idea that the Bible is about God? How would this affect your answers to the questions?

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## ***Our Attitudes***

James instructs us on how to listen to a sermon, or how to read the Bible in James 1:19-25. These additional questions may help us get more out of the Bible.

### **First, what's your posture?**

1. Receive the word with eager teachability. (James 1:19-20)
2. Receive the word while getting rid of moral filth and sin. (James 1:21)
3. Receive the word with humility.

### **Second, what's your response?**

Go and do it. (James 1:22)

Do you look remember what the word said? If not, then you better look at it again. (James 1:23-25)

### **A Preflight Bible Checklist:**

1. Am I looking at this first to see what the Bible says about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, His work, and His glory... or am I looking to see what the Bible says about me?
2. Am I approaching this Bible time with eager teachability, asking God to change me?
3. Am I approaching this Bible time with certainty that there are still sins and idols in my life that I need to get rid of?
4. Am I approaching this Bible time with humility and repentance?
5. Am I going to do whatever this passage teaches? (Whether it's behavior or attitudinal)
6. Am I willing to look at this Bible passage again until I begin doing it and experience the freedom it offers?