

# WELCOME TO THE RENEW SERIES!

**Rhythms.** Those things we do regularly, that either help us grow, or stagnate. What are you practicing daily, that elevates your everyday life and improves your spiritual life? Sometimes God can feel so far away, and we have no idea how to connect with Him or even grow in our relationship with Jesus.

Discover some basic spiritual practices that will help us RENEW our hearts, challenge us to trust God, and be more connected to Him, so we can live to our full potential.

## THIS WEEK'S TOPIC: How to Read the Bible

### WHY READ THE BIBLE?

The Bible is more than just a book; it is God's Word, alive and active, providing guidance, wisdom, and encouragement. It helps us know God better, understand His will for our lives, and most importantly grow spiritually.

### GET STARTED WITH BIBLE READING

#### 1. Choose a good translation:

- New International Version (NIV): Balanced in readability and accuracy.
- English Standard Version (ESV): More literal, good for study.
- New Living Translation (NLT): Very readable and easy to understand.
- The Message (MSG): Paraphrase, easy to understand and relatable.

#### 2. Set aside time:

- Find a quiet place.
- Start with 10-15 minutes a day.

#### 3. Pray before you start:

- Ask God to open your heart and mind to understand His Word.

#### 4. Use a Bible Reading Plan:

- Helps you stay consistent and cover different parts of the Bible.

## TOOLS FOR READING THE BIBLE

### 1. Study Bibles:

- Provide notes and commentary to help understand the text.
- Example: The NIV Study Bible, The ESV Study Bible.

### 2. Bible Apps:

- Convenient and packed with resources.
- Example: YouVersion, Bible Gateway.

### 3. Commentaries:

- Offer in-depth explanations of passages.
- Example: Matthew Henry's Commentary, The Expositor's Bible Commentary.

### 4. Concordances:

- Help find where specific words and topics appear in the Bible.
- Example: Strong's Concordance.

## TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE BIBLE READING

1. **Start with the Gospels:** Begin with the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John to learn about Jesus' life and teachings.
2. **Use a Reading Plan:** Follow a structured plan to read through the Bible systematically.
3. **Take Notes:** Write down your thoughts, questions, and insights as you read.
4. **Reflect and Apply:** Think about how the passage applies to your life and what actions you can take.

## SOAP METHOD FOR BIBLE STUDY

SOAP is a simple method to help you study the Bible and apply its teachings to your life.

- **S - Scripture:** Write down the verse or passage that stands out to you. Read through it a few times.
- **O - Observation:** What do you see in the verses that you're reading? Who is it written to? What are the key words or themes?
- **A - Application:** How can you apply what you've read to your life? Is there a lesson to be learned or a command to obey?
- **P - Prayer:** Pray about what you've read and ask God to help you apply it to your life.

## BIBLE PASSAGE FOR THIS WEEK

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." **JOHN 15:1-8 (NIV)**

### Now use SOAP to unpack this passage for you personally...

- Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Observation: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_  
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