

Let's Discuss...The Bible

PART 8 Spirit-Led Reading



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Scriptures mentioned:

Parable of the Farmer
Scattering Seed
Matthew 13:1-23

...He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.

John 10:3c-5 ESV

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Romans 10:17 NASB

the
Discipleship
project

Episode Summary

In this final episode, we discuss what it looks like to invite the Spirit into our journey with the Bible and how there are countless ways that one could use to learn and apply Scripture. We reflect on personal journeys of learning to discern between the Spirit and our own thoughts and take comfort in the fact that God is not allusive or trying to hide from us, but He is there to be found.

Definitions

disciple: a follower and student of Jesus

Let's Discuss...

- What different methods have you tried for studying Scripture? What has been most effective for you?
- We discuss multiple ways to approach Scripture, and how some work better for different people or for different seasons of life. Here are some of the ones mentioned in the video:
 - » Hearing/listening to Scripture
 - » Read a Psalm a day
 - » Take a theological course
 - » Read a devotional
 - » Use a Bible plan (the **Bible** app has loads of topical Bible plans)
 - » Search the **Bible** app or Google for plans to help you read the Bible in a year, or read it chronologically (in the order that the events happened historically)
 - » Pray the Scripture
 - » Do a search for Scriptures that pertain to a topic the Spirit has put on your heart (such as Mims's study on peace) and post them somewhere you can see often or memorise a few of them
- What does it mean to you to "apply" Scripture to your life?
- Rocky mentions that you "can't escape the pattern and consistency required to be a learner". How consistent are you when it comes to spending time with the Bible? How does that line up with your goals?
 - » For parallel insights on this, check out **Let's Discuss...Prayer PART 4_Devotion vs Obligation**.
- We chat about different styles of writing in the Bible. Even within the 4 gospels, they are all written in different ways. Is there one that draws you in more?

If you've never noticed the differences in these writing styles, consider these ideas...

1. Read larger portions at a time, like you would any other book, instead of by the verse/chapter breaks that were later inserted. This method of reading can help you get a different feel for any book of the Bible! (Using the Bible app you could even listen to large portions while you get ready in the morning or during your commute.)
2. Add a "Harmony of the Gospels" to your personal library. These books put the

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Check out some of Mims' favourite Scriptures on peace:



The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace.

Psalm 29:11 NIV

'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty.

Haggai 2:9 NIV

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27 NIV

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7 NIV

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15 NIV

gospel stories side by side so you can easily compare them.

- Do you think you've developed an ability to discern between the voice of the Spirit and your own thoughts? (Side note – are these always two different things?) If so, how do you experience them differently?

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them...Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced His perfect love.

1 John 4:16 & 18 NLT

- » Even if it is to convict us of sin or to refine us in some way, the Holy Spirit does it in love. Think about how Mims mentions being “arrested” by a Scripture, but from a place of love: “Babes, you need to deal with this now...”.
- » Consider Rocky's clarifying question when he's discerning if a thought is a golden thought (one from God): “Does this thought pull me towards sacrificial love for myself, others, and all creation?”

Let's Pray...

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8 NLT

- Meditate on those beautiful words of invitation from Jesus, an open armed welcome to all those who seek His embrace. Are you a persistent seeker? Do you long to know the voice of your Creator? To be a disciple of Jesus and to have a deeper revelation of Him through Scripture? Ask for it.

Let's Go Deeper...

- *Let's Discuss...Prayer PART 4_Devotion vs Obligation* by The Discipleship Project [video]
- *The NIV Harmony of the Gospels: With Explanations and Essays* by Robert L. Thomas and Stanley N. Gundry [book]