

**GROW TRACK – PT. 2**  
**SECTION 3**

**Learn!**

The Rock Church of Temecula Valley Series

**How To Get A Grasp On  
Your Bible**

Student Guide

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone."

**A Key To Spiritual Maturity: \_\_\_\_ (Learning how to feed yourself) \_\_\_\_.**

There's an old parable that says, "If you give a man a fish you've fed him for a meal, but if you teach a man to fish, you've fed him for a lifetime."

### **"SIX WAYS TO GET 'GRASP' ON YOUR BIBLE"**

The Hand Illustration: Trace an outline of your hand in the space below:

**These are the six ways that you can get a grasp on God's word:**

**Hear, Read, Study, Memorize, Meditate, Apply.**

**On the little finger, write the word \_\_\_\_\_(HEAR)\_\_\_\_\_**

**The next finger, write the word \_\_\_\_\_(READ)\_\_\_\_\_**

**The third finger, your long finger, is the word \_\_\_\_\_(STUDY)\_\_\_\_\_**

**The index finger is the word \_\_\_\_\_(MEMORIZE)\_\_\_\_\_**

**The thumb is the word \_\_\_\_\_(MEDITATE)\_\_\_\_\_**

**Down in the middle of your palm write the word \_\_\_\_\_(APPLY)\_\_\_\_\_**

When you get a grasp on God's word you want to have more than just the little finger. The only way most Christians take the Bible into their life is by hearing it. They don't read or study it. They come to church and just hear the word.

Exercise:

Hold your Bible with just that little finger. It's not much of a grasp. Have someone else pull your Bible from your grasp.

Key Point: The Bible says that Scripture is the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit.

Using just your little finger, how can you fight the devil as hard as you can?

If you decide to not only hear the word of God, but also read the Bible every day, now you've got two fingers to grasp the Bible. The devil can still pull it out, but it's a little bit harder.

The third one -- Hear, Read, Study. If you're studying, you're getting a little bit better grip on the Bible. He can still take it away, but not as easy.

Four fingers -- Hear, Read, Study, Memorize. That's harder. How much do you forget when you memorize? Nothing.

Then when you add Meditate and Apply -- when you have it all, you have a grasp.

You get the idea. If you're just hearing the Word of God, you're not getting much. But the more of these 6 things you do, the better grasp you'll have on God's Word. Let's look at each one, in detail.

## **I. HOW TO HEAR GOD'S WORD.**

"Faith comes from hearing the Word of God." Romans 10:17

How many of you would like to have more faith? Hear the Word of God. This is the easiest way to get into God's Word. It's the most common way. But it's also the way we can lose the most content.

Here are some ways to hear God's word:

Podcasts, YouVersion, other Bible apps.

Church services

Bible studies, sermon CDs, sermons on YouTube

Radio/television teachers.

Every day you can turn on the radio and hear great Bible teachers

Those are all good. But the problem is, we tend to forget 95% of what we hear within 72 hours. If you want a statistic that will depress your pastor, that's it! Unless you write things down, you're going to forget 95% of what was said this morning by Wednesday. That's why people can go week after week, year after year to church and not really grow. They don't really remember it. And how can you apply it if you don't even remember it.

### **FIVE WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HEARING**

#### **1. Be ready and eager to hear God**

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Luke 8:8

"Be quick to listen." James 1:19

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

Psalms 119:103

#### **2. Deal with attitudes that prevent hearing God.**

"Consider carefully how you listen" Luke 8:4-18

#### **Attitudes That Prevent Hearing God:**

##### **A Closed Mind:**

Is fear, pride or bitterness preventing me from hearing God?

##### **A Superficial Mind:**

Am I really serious about wanting to hear God speak?

##### **A Preoccupied Mind:**

Am I too busy and concerned with other things to concentrate on what God has to say?

### **3. Confess any sin in your life.**

**James 1:21** "Get rid of all moral filth and humbly accept the Word." If I have a glass filled with water, and I want to pour Dr. Pepper into it, the first thing I've got to do is pour out the water. Pouring two things into one vessel pollutes them both. He's saying get rid of all the garbage in your life so that God can fill your life with the Word.

#### **"...And humbly accept the Word".**

When I go to hear a pastor or a Bible teacher or somebody speak and when I don't get anything out of a sermon, my first reaction is not "What's wrong with them?" but "What's wrong with me?" Even if the guy is boring, if he's at least quoting a scripture, I ought to at least be able to think about that and say, "What does that mean to my life?" So if I'm not getting anything out of it, I need to say, "What's wrong with me? Am I not tuned in to God?"

### **4. Take notes on what you hear.**

**Hebrews 2:1** "We must pay more careful attention to what we've heard, so that we do not drift away!"

I want to challenge you to keep a spiritual notebook. A spiritual notebook is a tool designed to help me organize and retain the blessings of God. That's one of the basic disciplines that will help you hear the Word of God.

### **5. Act on what you hear.**

James 1:22 "Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

James 1:25 "Whoever does not simply listen and then forgets it, but puts it into practice [underline this] that person will be blessed in what he does."

The Bible says that to really be blessed when you hear a Bible study or sermon you need to put it into practice.

## **II. HOW TO READ GOD'S WORD.**

How do you read God's Word? The Bible says in Revelation 1:3 "Happy is the one who reads this book and obeys what is written in it."

How often should I read God's word? The Bible says you should read it daily.

**Deuteronomy 17:19** (Living Bible) "The Scriptures shall be his constant companion. He must read from it every day of his life so that he will learn to respect the Lord, his God, by obeying all of his commands."

## **SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO READ THE WORD OF GOD:**

### **1. Read Systematically**

You don't use the dip and skip method. Many of you have done this. You sit down on the edge of your bed at night and start to feel guilty -- "I've got to read my Bible!" -- so wherever you open it up that's where you start. Read with purpose. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to the verse of scripture you need at that particular time in your life.

Some of you have heard of the guy who said, "Lord, I want to know your will for my life." He opened up his Bible and put his finger down and it said, "Judas went out and hung himself." He thought, "That could not be right." So he closed his Bible and opened it again and put his finger down and it said, "Go thou and do likewise." He thought, "Lord, this could not be right. Two out of three..." He opens it a third time and puts his finger down and it said, "And what thou doest, do quickly."

That's the kind of results you're going to get if you have the dip and skip method, the cafeteria-style approach.

You need to pick a book of the Bible and read it a book at a time. When you read a letter you don't read the last part then the first part, then the middle. You read it straight through. Many of these books in the New Testament are letters. They are to be read straight through.

You need to read the entire Bible, not just your favorite parts. Some of you get stuck in Psalms and Proverbs and the Gospels. It's going to be pretty embarrassing when some of you get to heaven and Habakkuk comes up and says, "How did you like my book?" and you're not even going to know he was in the Bible. You need to read the whole thing -- the Minor Prophets and all the other guys.

### **2. Read a Bible Without Notes**

When you read a Bible with notes in it, you have the tendency to see the same thing over and over. Try reading a different Bible for your quiet time. One that has no notes at all so you see something fresh.

### **3. Read Different Translations**

Read a couple of the modern translations along with your regular translation. The Good News translation is excellent and very readable. The American Bible Society translated the Good News and the purpose of it was to be used to teach English as a second language overseas. It has a very simple vocabulary for those of us who don't have a very big vocabulary.

The Living Bible and The Phillips is a paraphrase, but they're very good for Bible reading.

#### **4. Read Aloud To Yourself**

If your mind tends to wander while you're reading, just read it aloud. Your mind doesn't wander when you're reading aloud.

#### **5. Underline or Color Code Key Verses**

You can put all the promises in blue and all the verses about Jesus in red and all the verses about the Holy Spirit in green. You can make up your color code. You can also make reference at the end of one scripture as to the next scripture you want to turn to. This method is great for mapping out the “road to salvation” right in your Bible so you don't have to carry notes with you.

#### **6. Choose A Reading Plan And Stick With It**

There are many reading plans. You can keep a record for yourself through the Bible in a year. Pace yourself. If I read approximately **(15)** minutes a day I can read through the Bible once a year.

If you've never done it, make that your goal. Do you believe the Bible from cover to cover? Have you read it from cover to cover? How do you know if you believe it from cover to cover?

#### **7. Listen to the Holy Spirit as He will illuminate certain verses that will apply to you personally.**

### **III. HOW TO STUDY GOD'S WORD.**

Acts 17:11 says "They accepted the message eagerly and studied the Scripture every day." This is speaking about the Berean church and they are commended that they didn't just accept what was told to them as truth. They went back and looked at the Scriptures every day to make sure that it coincided with what the Bible said.

2 Timothy 2:15 tells us we are to be “good workmen”. We are to know what His word says and means. How do you know what His word says and means? Only by studying it.

Anyone can learn how to study the Bible. It is not a skill that is reserved for the professional theologians. God intended each of us to know how to do more than just hear it. He intended us to study His Word.

The difference between reading and studying the Bible is using (a pencil, pen or highlighter).

The secret of effective Bible study is knowing how to \_\_\_\_\_(ask the right questions)\_\_\_\_\_.

Here are some questions you can ask -- basic journalistic questions that you can

apply to any passage of scripture and get some insight out of it. Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Some Resources For Bible Study Books:

“Dynamic Bible Study Methods” by Rick Warren (Victor Books)

Study Bibles - Four of the best:

- \*For personal application - The Life Application Bible published by Tyndale

- \*The best topical Study Bible – The Thompson Chain Reference Bible

- \*The best background study Bible - The NIV Study Bible

- \*The best doctrine study Bible - The Disciple Study Bible

Bible Handbooks

Haley's Bible Handbook (Zondervan)

Richard's Complete Handbook (Word)

Eerdman's Bible Handbook (Eerdmans)

What the Bible is All About by Henrietta Mears (Regal)

Other important study tools:

As many different translations as you can afford.

A Complete Concordance:

That corresponds to the translation of the Bible that you use is something that every Christian needs if you really want to get serious about studying the Bible. Have you ever had the experience of talking to somebody and a verse came to mind but you can't remember where it is? A concordance will help you out. It gives you a listing of every single word in the Bible and every time it's used.

Bible Dictionary And An Encyclopedia:

Are just expanded versions of the Handbooks we mentioned. The Bible handbooks are small and concise. The encyclopedia and dictionary go into a lot of detail. They are fun to read. You find things that you've never heard of before. If you have a question about something and you don't know who to ask, you go to the Bible dictionary and look it up and it gives you all the information you want to know.

Bible Commentary:

A commentary is when professional theologians have gotten together, pulled their wisdom and say, this is what this verse of scripture means. That's great but if you go there first you rob yourself of the joy of finding out things on your own. The New Bible commentary by Eerdman's is the one we recommend. But rely on it only after you've tried to find out the information for yourself.

Moody Atlas of Bible Lands:

That has maps and charts and things that talk about Israel and Palestine, Egypt,

places that are mentioned in the Bible.

#### **IV. HOW TO MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD**

Proverbs 7:2-3, "Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them within your heart."

#### **BENEFITS OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE:**

**1. It helps me resist temptation.**

"I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

We have an example of this with Jesus in the wilderness. When the devil tempted Him, He quoted scripture every time He was tempted. Granted, He did write the book, so He did have a little advantage over us. But He memorized the scripture.

**2. It helps me make wise decisions.**

"Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

**3. It strengthens me when I'm under stress.**

"Your promises to me are my hope. They give me strength in all my troubles. How they refresh and revive me." Psalm 119:49

**4. It comforts me when I'm sad.**

"Your Words sustain me. They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight to me." Jeremiah 15:16 (LB) "You will be glad if you remember them and you can quote them." Proverbs 22:18

The Bible on the shelf does no good at all. It has all the answers for life but if you don't have it in your life it doesn't make much difference. So the more you can get the book into your mind the stronger Christian you're going to be.

**5. It helps me witness to unbelievers.**

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

#### **WHEN SHOULD YOU MEMORIZE A VERSE?**

During your \_\_\_(quiet time)\_\_\_

While \_\_\_(exercising)\_\_\_

While \_\_\_(waiting)\_\_\_ (in spare moments.)

**At \_\_\_\_ (bedtime) \_\_\_\_ (Psalm 63:6)**

Pick a verse that speaks to you.

Say the verse reference before and after.

Read the verse aloud many times. Record it! You memorize by saying it aloud.

Break the verse into natural phrases.

Emphasize key words when quoting the verse.

Write down the verse and erase a word one at a time.

Write the verse out on flash cards.

Carry those cards with you at all times for review.

Display your verses in prominent places where you're going to see them.

Bathroom mirror, over your desk, by your computer.

Always memorize the verse word perfect. Memorize it exactly the way it's written.

Put the verse to music. Write a song.

Get a partner so you can check each other.

**There are three keys to memorizing scripture:**

The first key is to review.

The second key to memorizing scripture is to review.

The third key is to review.

**We remember what is \_\_\_\_ (important) \_\_\_\_ to us.**

If you're interested in memorizing scripture then you're going to be able to remember it.

How important was it to David?

Psalm 119:72 "The law you gave me means more to me than all the money in the world."

1 Timothy 4:7 "Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit." 1 Timothy 4:7.

**V. HOW TO MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD**

Psalm 1:2-3...“(Those) who are always meditating on His Laws...Are like trees along a river bank bearing fruit...they never wither and whatever they do prospers.”

**Meditation is \_\_\_\_ (focused thinking) \_\_\_\_ about a Bible verse in order to discover how I can apply its truth to my own life.**

How many of you are good worriers? If you're a worrier, you can meditate.

Worry is just negative meditation. When you're worrying about something, what

are you doing? But if you think positive about the Word of God and good things, then that's the kind of meditation Scripture commends.

## **WHY WE SHOULD MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE?**

### **1. It is the key to becoming like Christ.**

Proverbs 4:23 "Your life is shaped by your thoughts."

The truth of the matter is we become whatever it is that we think about the most. If we're thinking about how disaster could strike our family, if we think about how we've failed again at whatever it was we were trying to do, what will happen; we will become those things or those things will happen. What you think about is what you become. If you want to become like Christ, you've got to spend time thinking about Him.

Romans 12:2 "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Meditating is part of that renewing process. When you meditate on Scripture, meditate on the Lord, that's partially the way that God is able to renew our minds and replace those bad thoughts with good thoughts.

2 Corinthians 3:18 says "As we contemplate the Lord's glory, we are being transformed into His likeness." As we think deeply about the Lord and about His Word, we become more and more like Him. If you want to become like Christ you have to meditate.

### **2. It is the key to answered prayer.**

John 15:7 "If you live your life in Me, and My words live in your hearts, you can ask for whatever you like, and it will come true for you."

What was the condition? If you are living in My word and my words are living in you then you can ask what you want and it will come true. The more you know Christ, the more your thoughts become His thoughts. So you have confidence when you pray because you know what you're praying is according to God's will. You're confident that your own mind is in alignment with His and you're not going to be asking for something that is totally out of His will. You can have assurance that it's going to come true.

### **3. It is the key to successful living.**

Joshua 1:8 "Meditate on the word day and night, so you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

## **SIX WAYS TO MEDITATE ON A VERSE:**

These are really simple. Meditation is not hard.

### **1. Picture it!**

Visualize the scene in your mind. This works really good on passages of Scripture that are narrative, that tell a story (For instance, the woman at the well).

### **2. Pronounce it!**

Say the verse out loud, each time emphasizing a different word. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I can do all things through Christ..." Me! Not just Billy Graham or somebody I think is really terrific but God says that I can do all things. Then, can. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

### **3. Paraphrase it!**

Rewrite the verse in your own words. If you're having a hard time understanding what a verse means, if you can somehow put it into your own words, it will give you a lot better idea.

### **4. Personalize it!**

Replace the pronouns or people in the verse with your own name. Stick your name in a promise. This is particularly helpful if you're feeling discouraged and you start thinking that God's word was maybe meant for everyone else but you. If you put your name in a verse then it helps reassure you that "God's word is for me. He really did intend this word for me. This is a promise for me."

### **5. Pray it!**

Turn the verse into a prayer and pray it back to God. If you're reading in the Psalms and you hear David saying things like, "How long, O Lord, will You turn your face from me." Maybe that day you're particularly feeling that exact same way. Take that prayer and pray it right back to God. It's not unspiritual to do that.

### **6. Probe it!**

Ask the following nine questions: "S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S."

**S** - Is there a **Sin** to confess?

As I'm looking at this passage of scripture do I see a sin here that I need to confess from my own life.

**P** - Is there a **Promise** to claim?

**A** - Is there an **Attitude** to change? .

**C - Command to Obey.**

Is there a command to obey? God does not give us options in His Word. He does not say, "Would you please love each other if you're having a nice day and everything's going ok." God just says, "Love each other from the heart."

**E - Example to follow.**

Is there an example to follow in this scripture? Think of Paul in prison, feet and hands bound, there for years. But what was Paul's attitude? To whine and complain? Absolutely not. He praised God.

**P - Prayer to Pray.**

**E - Error to Avoid.**

Is there an error to avoid? Do you remember Ananias and Sapphira in the book of Acts. They did a real stupid thing. They lied to God. Because they lied to God, God killed them on the spot. That tells me that is an error to avoid! I do not want to lie to God. There are consequences.

**T - Truth to believe.**

The same as with commands to obey, there are some difficult truths in scripture. We have the obligation and responsibility to believe them whether we understand them or not. If you come across some passage of scripture and think, "This does not make sense at all" rather than arguing with God about it, rather than saying, "Until I understand it I'm not going to obey it," you just say, "God, this is a truth You've said. I'm going to believe it and trust that in the days and years to come, You will make it clear to me what You meant by this."

**S - Always look for **Something** to thank God for.**

There is always something in Scripture that you can praise the Lord for. It's either about Him, His character, something He's done for you or someone else. Cultivate that heart of gratitude as you read through scripture and meditate.

## **HOW TO APPLY GOD'S WORD**

James 1:22 "Do not fool yourselves by just listening to the Word. Instead, put it into practice." Matthew 5:19 "Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." How do I get the Bible into my life? How do I apply Scripture?

**You use the APPLICATION BRIDGE.**

The application bridge is how you get "What did it mean then?" to "What does it mean now?" The key to understand, "What did it mean then?" and "What does it mean now?" in your life, is to find the timeless principle beneath every story in the Bible.

**Key Questions To Ask To Apply The Word Of God:**

- 1. What did it mean to the original hearers?**
- 2. What is the underlying timeless principle?**
- 3. Where or how could I practice that principle today?**

Group Exercise: (5-10 Minutes)

Get with the person next to you and discuss how you could apply the Word of God to your life. Be prepared to share your ideas with the group.

John 13:17 (LB) “Now that you know these things – do them! That is the path of blessing.

## **My Personal Commitment**

Today I commit to the habits necessary for spiritual maturity.

Your Signature

Date

"In the past you voluntarily gave your body to the service of vice and the purposes of evil. So now give yourselves to the service of righteousness for the purpose of becoming truly good."

Romans 6:19 (Phillips)

Notice it uses the word "vice". What are vices? They're bad habits. It says when you give yourself to the service of vice that means a lifestyle of bad habits, a lifestyle of sinful habits. In contrast, it says, "Now give yourselves to the service of righteousness..." which is a lifestyle of righteous habits or good habits. The Bible says give yourselves. That's a voluntary act or commitment. To benefit from a habit you've got to voluntarily want to do it. It can't be forced on you because you've got to have the right motive. In other words, if you want to diet, it's because you've got to want to diet, not because somebody else is forcing it on you.

## HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE – ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ

### 1. READ GOD’S WORD

Find a passage you want to study:

*From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said: “In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for his help, and you listened to my cry. **Jonah 2:1-2 (NIV)***

### 2. LIST THE FACTS

What is the passage saying?

Do not paraphrase—pull out the nouns and verbs

**Facts:**

**V1:** *Inside the fish, Jonah prayed  
To the Lord his God*

**V2:** *In distress I called – He answered  
From the depths I called – You listened*

### 3. LEARN THE LESSONS

What does God’s Word mean?

Go to the facts in the passage and try to draw a spiritual lesson or principle from that passage

**V1:**

**Fact:** *Inside the fish, Jonah prayed*

**Lesson:** We can pray anywhere!

**Fact:** *To the Lord his God*

**Lesson:** We need to establish a relationship with God before a crisis so we can pray with assurance in a crisis

**V2:**

**Fact:** *In distress I called – He answered*

**Lesson:** God responds to our distress signals

**Fact:** *From the depths I called – You listened*

**Lesson:** There is no place so low that God doesn’t hear our call

**Fact:** *From the depths I called – You listened*

**Lesson:** We can grow in our personal relationship with God when we are under stress and pressure.

#### 4. LISTEN TO HIS VOICE

What does God's Word mean to me in my life? Go back to the lessons and reword them into questions. Listen to the voice of the Lord.

##### **V1:**

**Fact:** *Inside the fish, Jonah prayed*

**Lesson:** We can pray anywhere!

**Question:** In what place do I think prayer is off limits? Where is it inappropriate to pray?

**Fact:** *To the Lord his God*

**Lesson:** We need to establish a relationship with God before a crisis so we can pray with assurance in a crisis

**Question:** How confident am I that God is mine in every situation?

##### **V2:**

**Fact:** *In distress I called – He answered*

**Lesson:** God responds to our distress signals

**Question:** Why do I think God will not respond to my distress call?

**Fact:** *From the depths I called – You listened*

**Lesson:** There is no place so low that God doesn't hear our call

**Question:** Why don't I think God will hear my cry? – From the depths of depression, addiction, humiliation, desperation, grief?

**Fact:** *From the depths I called – You listened*

**Lesson:** We can grow in our personal relationship with God when we are under stress and pressure.

**Question:** What stress have I been under, and how have I grown in my personal relationship with the Lord?

#### 5. LIVE IT OUT!

What is one takeaway you can apply and live out in your life?

Regardless of where I am or what I am going through, I will pray with confidence that my God will hear and answer!

## **RICK WARREN'S BIBLE STUDY METHODS**

### **1. THE DEVOTIONAL METHOD**

Select a short portion of your Bible and prayerfully meditate on it until the Holy Spirit shows you a way to apply the truth to your life. Write out a personal application.

### **2. THE CHAPTER SUMMARY METHOD**

Read a chapter of a Bible book through at least five times; then write down a summary of the central thoughts you find in it.

### **3. THE CHARACTER QUALITY METHOD**

Choose a character quality you would like to work on in your life and study what the Bible says about it.

### **4. THE THEMATIC METHOD**

Select a Bible theme to study. Then think of three-to-five questions you'd like to have answered about that theme. Next, study all the references you can find on your theme and record the answers to your questions.

### **5. THE BIOGRAPHICAL METHOD**

Select a Bible character and research all the verses about that person in order to study his life and characteristics. Make notes on his attitudes, strengths, and weaknesses. Then apply what you have learned to your own life.

### **6. THE TOPICAL METHOD**

Collect and compare all the verses you can find on a particular topic. Organize your conclusions into an outline that you can share with another person.

### **7. THE WORD STUDY METHOD**

Study the important words of the Bible. Find out how many times a word occurs in Scripture and how it is used. Find out the original meaning of the word.

**8. THE BOOK BACKGROUND METHOD**

Study how history, geography, culture, science, and politics affected what happened in Bible times. Use Bible reference books to increase your understanding of the Word.

**9. THE BOOK SURVEY METHOD**

Survey an entire book of the Bible by reading it through several times to get a general overview of its subject matter. Study the background of the book and make notes on its contents.

**10. THE CHAPTER ANALYSIS METHOD**

Master the contents of a chapter of a book of the Bible by taking an in-depth look at each verse in that chapter. Take each verse apart word by word, observing every detail.

**11. THE BOOK SYNTHESIS METHOD**

Summarize the contents and main themes of a book of the Bible after you have read it through several times. Make an outline of the book. This method can be done after you have used the Book Survey Method and the Chapter Analysis Method on every chapter of that book.

**12. THE VERSE-BY-VERSE METHOD**

Select one passage of Scripture and examine it in detail by asking questions, finding cross-references, and paraphrasing each verse. Record a possible application of each verse you study.

# **Grow Track - Pt. 2**

## **Section 4**

# **Give!**

# **The Habits of Tithing and Giving**

The Rock Church of Temecula Valley Series

Student Guide

# The HABIT of TITHING

1 Corinthians 16:2 "On the 1st day of every week, set aside some of what you've earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn."

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT TITHING?

What is tithing? Tithe means a     (tenth)     part.

What's the difference between a tithe and an offering?

Tithe is giving     (ten percent)     of my income.

An offering is anything I give     (in addition)     to my tithe.

## WHY SHOULD I TITHE? EIGHT REASONS IN GOD'S WORD.

1. God     (commands)     it.

Leviticus 27:10 "A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's and it is holy."

We could just stop right there. God could have said give ninety percent. But He just said ten. Simply because He says it, we ought to obey it. But He does give us other reasons.

2. Jesus     (commended it)    .

Not only did God command it, but Jesus commended it.

Matthew 23:23: He said, "Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn't leave the more important things undone either." They were tithing, but they weren't doing some other things.

3. Tithing demonstrates that God has     (first place in my life)    .

Deuteronomy 14:23 (Living Bible)

"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God in first place in your life."

4. Tithing reminds me that     (everything)     was given to me by God.

"Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth."

(Deuteronomy 8:18)

5. Tithing expresses my     (gratitude to God for the blessings)    .

Psalms 116:12 "How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?"

Deuteronomy 16:17 "Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you."

6. God says that refusing to tithe is     (robbing)     from Him.

That's pretty strong but that's exactly what He says. Malachi 3:8-10 "God says `Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!' But you ask, `How do we rob you?' God says `In tithes and offerings... Bring your whole tithe to my house.'"

7. Tithing gives God a chance to prove (He exists) and wants to bless you.

Malachi 3:10 "Bring your whole tithe to my storehouse. Test me in this' says the Lord, `and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you won't have room enough for it! I will prevent pests from devouring your crops and the vines in your fields will be protected from plagues."

8. Tithing proves that I (really love God).

Jesus said, "If you love me, do what I command." John 14:15

"I want you to be leaders also in the spirit of cheerful giving. This is one way to prove that your love is real, that it goes beyond mere words." 2 Corinthians 8:7-8

### Common Questions About Tithing:

What should I tithe?

The (first) part of what I earn, not the (leftovers).  
Proverbs 3:9-10 "Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income."

Where should I give my tithe?

I should tithe where I (worship). "Bring your whole tithe into my storehouse." Malachi 3:10.

When should I tithe?

1 Corinthians 16:2 " (On the first day of every week), set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn."

1 Timothy 6:17-18 "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way they may take hold of the life that is truly Life!"

The Bible is a book about giving. Jesus talked more about giving than almost any other subject. . There are more promises in the Bible related to giving than any other subject. It says, "the first day of every week". Is that a habit? Yes.

## Part 2: The Habit of GIVING

2 Corinthians 8:7 - "Just as you excel in everything -- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness -- see that you also excel in the grace of giving."

"believe" is used 272 times

"pray" is used 371 times

"love" is used 714 times

"give" is used 2,162 times.

### 7 REASONS GOD WANTS ME TO GIVE

#### 1. GIVING MAKES ME (MORE LIKE GOD).

God is a giver and if we're going to be like God, we've got to become givers.

"God so loved the world that He gave his only Son." John 3:16

#### 2. GIVING DRAWS ME (CLOSER TO GOD).

Matthew 6:21 "Where your treasure is, there your heart is also."

#### 3. GIVING IS THE ANTIDOTE TO (MATERIALISM).

1 Timothy 6:17-18 "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way they may take hold of the life that is truly Life!"

#### 4. GIVING STRENGTHENS (MY FAITH).

Faith is like a muscle. God uses finances to test your faith. Proverbs 3:5, 9

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of your income, and he will fill your barns to overflowing."

Luke 6:38 "Give and it will be given to you. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

#### 5. GIVING IS AN INVESTMENT (IN ETERNITY).

1 Timothy 6:18-19 "Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven -- it is the only safe investment for eternity."

#### 6. GIVING BLESSES ME (IN RETURN).

Proverbs 22:9 "A generous man will himself be blessed."

Proverbs 11:25 "A generous man will prosper, he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

Psalms 112:5 "Good will come to him who is generous."

#### 7. GIVING (MAKES ME HAPPY).

Jesus said, "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving." Acts 20:35

**GIVE WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDES.**  
(God is more interested in my attitude than the amount. )

1. Give      (willingly)     . 2 Corinthians 9:12 "For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what you have, not according to what you don't have."

1 Corinthians 9:7 "Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under pressure."

2. Give      (joyfully)     . 2 Corinthians 9:7 "God loves a cheerful giver."

3. Give      (generously)     .  
2 Corinthians 8:3-4 "They gave as much as they were able and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service."

4. Give      (expectantly)     .  
2 Corinthians 9:6 "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will reap generously."

**THE KEY TO GIVING**  
**2 Corinthians 8:5, "They first gave themselves to the Lord."**

This is really the issue. If God owns me, He's going to own my wallet. If He doesn't own my heart, He doesn't own my wallet. I need to first give myself to the Lord.

A Commitment Prayer: – "Father, I know You love me and want what's best for me. I recognize that all I have, or ever will have, comes from You. I am more interested in pleasing You, than in having possessions. I want You to have first place in my life and I am willing to begin tithing as You have commanded. Out of gratitude for all You've done for me and in expectation that You will continue to provide for me, I commit myself to returning at least the first 10% of all I earn back to You. I want to begin investing for eternity. Help me to remain faithful to this commitment. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Grow Pt. 2 – Section 5 - Fellowship! Class – The Habit of Fellowship

# **GROW TRACK – PT. 2**

## **SECTION 5**

# **Fellowship!**

The Rock Church of Temecula Valley Series

# **The Habit of Fellowship**

Student Guide

# THE HABIT OF FELLOWSHIP

Hebrews 10:25 "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another."

## WHY IS FELLOWSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

1. I (BELONG) IN GOD'S FAMILY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

We all belong to the family of God with other believers.

Galatians 6:10 "Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Ephesians 2:19 "You are a member of God's very own family and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."

Romans 12:5 "So in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

2. I NEED (ENCOURAGEMENT) TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

Hebrews 10:24 "Let us think of one another and how we can encourage one another to love and good deeds."

Eccles.4:9-10, 12, "Two are better off than one. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls it's just too bad because there is no one to help him. Two men can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone. A rope made of 3 cords is hard to break."

3. I NEED (ACCOUNTABILITY) TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

Prov. 27:17 "People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron." "Everyday keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the glamour of sin."

4. CHRIST IS (PRESENT) WHEN WE FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER.

Matthew 18:20 "For wherever two or three have come together in my name, I am there, right among them!"

5. THERE IS (GREAT POWER) WHEN PEOPLE PRAY TOGETHER.

Matthew 18:19 "Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for it will be done for you by my Father in heaven."

6. FELLOWSHIP IS A (WITNESS) TO THE WORLD.

Jesus says, "My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind so the world will believe you sent me."

"Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

## Grow Pt. 2 – Section 5 - Fellowship! Class – The Habit of Fellowship

7. I AM           (OBLIGATED)           TO EVERY OTHER CHRISTIAN.

1 Peter 4:10 "God has given you some special abilities [spiritual gifts]; be sure to use them to help each other."

1 Corinthians 12:5, 27 "There are different kinds of service to God. Together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it."

Serve one another, Accept one another, Forgive one another, Greet one another, Bear one another's burdens, Be devoted to one another, Honor one another, Teach one another, Submit to one another, Encourage one another.

### HOW CAN A LARGE CHURCH MAINTAIN CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS?

Every member needs to be a part of           (a Small Group)          .

Acts 5:42 "They [the believers] met day after day in the Temple courts and from house to house."

At The Rock, we believe our church must grow           (larger)           and           (smaller)           at the same time.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS? (See Acts 2:42-47)

1.           (Bible study)           "They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching."

2.           (Fellowship)           "and to fellowship".

3.           (Communion)          . "and to the breaking of bread".

4.           (Prayer)          . "Our father, give us our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we ..."

5.           (Support)          . "They gave to anyone as he had a need."

Philippians 4:15 "You shared with me the fellowship of giving and receiving."

6.           (Social)          . "they ate together with glad and sincere hearts."

"get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or if they need lodging, for the night." Romans 12:13

7.           (Singing or praising)          . "Praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

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8. (Outreach) . " the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

### We're leading people into 5 levels of commitment:

**THE COMMUNITY** - At the outer edge of the circle we call that the community. They are all the people in the Temecula Valley area that we're trying to reach for Christ. The goal of the community is to reach them and move them into the crowd. Those are the people who show up on Sunday morning. In the community we've got all the people in the Temecula Valley area.

**THE CROWD** - The crowd is not a church. But a crowd can be turned into a church. The community is not committed to anything; the crowd is simply committed to attendance.

**THE CONGREGATION** - Then we want to help those who are in the crowd to move into the next circle, which we call the congregation that is committed to membership. If you've been through iBelong, which you have been if you're in this class, then you're a member of the congregation. You're committed to membership.

**THE COMMITTED** - What I'm encouraging you to do today is to move from the Congregation into the Committed, which are those who are committed to maturity.

**THE CORE** - Then we have one inner circle we call the Core. The Core are those who are actively involved in ministry in the church. They come to Ministry Meetings as they are offered. That's our Core Group Training for those who have been through iBelong, iGrow, and iServe, which is the next class I'd encourage you to take, and they are active in a ministry.

Today, my challenge is to accept the invitation to move into the Committed Circle by saying, "I want to make a commitment to these basic habits for my own spiritual growth."

#### Prayer:

Heavenly father, we thank You for these people who've come today, took time out of their schedule to spend an hour with us. We thank You for Your Word. How practical and relevant it is! I pray that You would help us be committed to make these commitments that would help us grow spiritually with a daily time with You for the rest of our lives, and a weekly tithe to You and to be a part of a committed team for You. We know that when our time and our money and our relationships are under Your control then our life is really under Your control. I thank You for these who are here now to make this commitment.

In Jesus' name. Amen.