



Icebreaker:

What will the Future You be doing 5 years from now?

The Study:

"Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of," Paul writes to Timothy (2 Tim.3;14). This simple sentence points to three stepping stones of faith we grow in as we move forward in Christ.



Stepping Stone #1: I have to learn the Word of God.

1. Biblical illiteracy has seldom been worse than it is in our time. Read the first phrase in Hosea 4:6. How does a lack of (scriptural) knowledge *destroy* us? (I thought *Ignorance is bliss!*) Try and come up with 3 to 5 ways.

2. Even secular observers are concerned about biblical illiteracy. Read the following quote, then discuss what the author is saying.

"Knowledge of the Bible is essential to being a full-fledged, well-rounded citizen...An entire generation of Americans is growing up almost entirely ignorant of the most influential book in world history, unable to understand the 1,300 biblical allusions in Shakespeare, the scriptural oratory of President Lincoln and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. or even the prominence of the Bible in popular films such as "Pulp Fiction" and "The Matrix".

From a Time article – "Why We Should Teach The Bible In Public Schools"

3. Read Proverbs 2:1-5. What's it saying? And what are some practical things you can do to deepen your knowledge of the Word of God?

Stepping Stone #2: I must become convinced of the truth of God's Word.

4. Is it okay to ask questions of God? Read Isaiah 1:18a and Mark 12:30, then discuss your thoughts.

5. Bear said in the teaching, "If you can be *oh so easily* talked in to becoming a Christian then you can be *oh so easily* talked out of it." How do we prevent this? Read 1 Peter 3:15.

6. Read Hebrews 11:1. Write out what faith is.

7. We exercise faith all the time. (How many of you get out of your car before you drive over a hill to make sure no one is coming in your lane?) But this faith is *reasonable faith* as opposed to *blind faith*. What's the difference, and which faith does Christianity require?

Stepping Stone #3: I must continue growing and never stop.

8. If a fellow Christian confessed to you that they were bored with their faith, what prescription would you write for them?

9. In the popular show about the afterlife, "*The Good Place*", (influenced by Eastern religious thought), the main characters – after endless years in paradise – chose annihilation ('absorption into the unknown' would be a nicer way of putting it) because they had reached a place where there was nothing left to learn or do. Why will this never happen with Christianity? Read Romans 11:33 and Ephesians 3:17-19, then talk about it.

If you have time, continue to practice the 3-Step Bible reading method, using the following template. You can use any of the suggested Scriptures below, or select one of your own.

Genesis 6:1-8; Psalm 8; Ephesians 1:3-10; Rev.3:14-22

The 3-Step Bible Study Method



Step One: Observation ~ *What do I see?*

Scripture Text:

Specific Observations (Write at least ten!):

Step Two: Interpretation ~ *What does it mean?*

Ask questions! – *What was the author saying to his original readers? Is there anything difficult to understand? What would I like to know more about? Can the passage be interpreted in different ways?*

Step Three: Application ~ *What should I do about it?*

What timeless principles does the passage teach?

What truths does this passage teach me about God?

What do I sense the Lord wants me to do in response?

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