

The Blueprint What We Believe and Why The Bible

“The Church has always recognized the 66 books of the Old Testament and New Testament to be the definitive teaching of the prophets and the apostles. As such, the Bible is the full and complete Word of God. It was breathed out by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, written down by specially chosen human authors, and has no errors. Its purpose, from Genesis to Revelation, is to bear witness to God’s plan of salvation in Christ Jesus. Because the Bible is the Word of God, it must be properly understood and obeyed in its entirety. The Bible is the final authority in everything the Church practices and teaches.” (Luke 24:25-27, John 5:37-40; 14:25-26, Acts 17:10-11, 1 Corinthians 2:4-5, 13, Galatians 1:8-9, 2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Peter 1:20-21; 3:15-16)

CHALLENGE: The Bible, God’s WORD, is completely and utterly useless to you if you don’t _____ it, believe it, and _____ by it!

Five tips on how to get started:

- (1)** Take notes in Venture’s worship gatherings, and then use those notes to re-read and reflect on the passage that was preached.
- (2)** Get involved in a Life group because it gives you a chance to discuss God’s Word and hear how God is using it in other people’s lives!
- (3)** Add listening to the reading of God’s Word to your routine. Listening was the only way most people in human history ever received it. You can listen to it for free at places like [www.ESV.org](http://www ESV.org). Try reading the passage and then listen to it while you read it.
- (4)** Study the book of Romans and then the Gospels. Romans serves as the ultimate commentary on the entire Bible. It explains all the essential teachings of the Bible, including how we should understand the Old Testament. If you understand Romans, you will be equipped to properly understand everything else, including the story of Jesus in the Gospels.
- (5)** Don’t read to say you read the Bible; read to understand and be changed by it. Take time to reflect on what you read and then pray what you read for yourself and others. Learning and being transformed by the Bible is not a race or task; it’s a life and a relationship!