

How to Engage Scripture Training: Hear & Obey God's Word

How to Engage Scripture is part of a training series founded on Jesus' discipleship model. An apprentice (i.e. disciple) spends time with Jesus, becomes like Jesus, and does the things he does. We want to follow His steps so closely that we become covered in the dust of our Rabbi. How to Engage Scripture is one of four growth practices that help us be with him, become like him, and do what he did.

- Scripture - Disciples study, meditate on and apply Scripture.
- Service - Disciples demonstrate the gospel by giving their lives away.
- Share - Disciples declare the gospel.
- Supplication & Other Types of Prayer - Disciples intercede and interact with God through prayer.

SCRIPTURE (Logos)—Scripture is God's Word, and the primary means given to understand reality as the Author created it. Through Scripture, we learn God's story, and who we are in it. We must prioritize the ingestion of Scripture, allowing God's story to inform our view of life and the world and to transform us into His image.

We will learn the S.O.A.P. method for engaging in Scripture and utilize two primary resources, the book *Priority Time: Addicted to God's Word* by Chris Conlee and a resource called *Scripture Engagement* found at www.biblegateway.org/resources/scripture-engagement/.

Unit Objectives

1. Understand Scriptural Engagement as a relational process whereby we meet with God and are changed by him.
2. Learn how to approach Scripture in such a way that you are prepared mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually to hear from God.
3. Understand the goal of Scripture Engagement
4. Understand the ingredients that go into effective Scripture Engagement and be proficient in using the ingredients of Scripture Engagement.
5. Become proficient enough in the Scripture Engagement practices so that the disciple can engage in the practices on their own and train others in the process of Scripture Engagement.

The Training Process

The training process will use the D.E.E.P.E.R. model of training: Demonstrate, Explain, Experience, Practice, Expose, and Replicate (also reflect, repeat).

- Follow this [LINK](#) for a fuller explanation of the D.E.E.P.E.R. model of training from SaturatetheWorld.com.

The Training Schedule

- Sunday Equipping Community Breakfast #1 (Jan. 28):
 - Why Scripture is vital for spiritual growth
 - What the journey will look like
- Pre-Training Resources & Activities
 - Put the **Disciple-Making Pathway** website on your bookmark bar and computer desktop.
 - Get familiar with your How to Engage Scripture Trainer's Guide available at the Coffee & Connect Table. This will be a vital tool throughout your training.
 - **Listen to the Introduction** to How to Engage Scripture.
 - i. [Introduction & Shannon's Testimony](#)
 - ii. [What the journey will look like & Q&A](#)
 - **Read *Priority Time***, pp. 11-45. Copies of *Priority Time* are available at the Coffee & Connect Table or on the resource cart in the Equipping Room. Contact Jay Jackson if you need bulk copies for your house church.
 - **Watch this brief Tutorial** on using biblehub.com.
 - **Context:** Look up the book summary of Joshua to get the context of chapter 1 using www.biblehub.com. To find a book summary, click on these links: "[Book SUM](#)" and "[Book by Book](#)". Read the summaries and then write a summary in your own words in your journal/notebook.
 - **Read Joshua 1:1-9:** Read Joshua 1:1-9 and highlight things that stand out, keywords or words that are repeated, things you have questions about, etc. On a second pass, answer the Four Questions: Who is God? What did he do? Who are we? What do we do?
- Sunday Equipping Community Breakfast #2 (Feb. 25):
 - What is the Goal of Scripture Engagement
 - What are the basic ingredients
 - Demonstrate the S.O.A.P. Method
- Weekly Asynchronous Space & Personal Practice (Experience, Practice, Expose, Reflect)

- Practice
- Reflection
- Huddle #1
 - Assess progress on assignments/personal experiences (Expose & Reflect).
 - Practice together if needed (Experience)
 - Give new assignments, if any (Practice)
- Weekly Asynchronous Space (Experience, Practice, Expose, Reflect)
 - Practice
 - Reflection
- Sunday Equipping Community Breakfast #3 (March 24):
 - Demonstrate the S.O.A.P. method if needed
 - Practice the S.O.A.P. method
 - How to Train Your Disciples to Engage Scripture
- Weekly Asynchronous Personal Space (Experience, Practice, Expose, Reflect)
 - Practice
 - Reflection
- Huddle #2
 - Assess progress
 - Demonstrate competency. Each person will demonstrate their ability to replicate the competencies and skills in the training process.
 - Those who demonstrate competency will then make a 6-month plan for training in their house church.
 - The Huddles can continue with demonstrations in competencies as needed.

Notes:

Additional touch points happen throughout the process through 1 on 1 elder coaching, house church visits, and intentional asynchronous discussions and accountability.

Training Session 1: How to Engage Scripture Intro.

Objectives:

- Capture people's hearts to want to engage with God in His Word
- Establish why Scripture is vital for spiritual growth

Other Resources:

- The slides for this training may be found [HERE](#).
- [Introduction & Shannon's Testimony Video](#)
- [What the journey will look like & Q&A Video](#)
- [Reasons for Engaging Scripture Handout](#)

Introduction (5 min)

Introductory Activity: To capture people's attention and introduce the topic, do this fun activity.

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pen. Have them tear the paper into three pieces. On one piece draw a creepy bug or an ugly spider. Anything they wouldn't want crawling up their leg. On the second piece write down the name of a food they hate. Any food they think has an awful taste, texture, or smell. Anything they would cringe to have to chew and swallow. Finally, on the last piece write down whatever term they call their mother or the mother figure in their life.

If you want to save some time give them three pieces of paper. Have a picture of an ugly spider already printed on one paper, and the word "Mom" on a second piece. They can write on the third piece the name of a food they hate or just print the word, "My most disgusting food!" or something similar.

Have everyone stand with their three pieces of paper. Lay your illustrated picture of an insect on the ground and stomp on it, like you're killing it. Instruct them to follow suit. Hold up your second sheet that has a disgusting food written on it. Throw it down and stomp on it too. Then have everyone happily stomp on their beets, broccoli, etc.

Hold up the third piece of paper with the word "Mom" and say, "Okay, now...". Toss the paper down next to the others and tell them to stop on the last piece of paper as well. You lift your foot with dramatic anticipation and stomp. No one follows suit. You can try to urge them to follow.

Why didn't anyone stomp? you ask. You don't stomp on that little piece of paper with the word "Mom" because words are more than a collection of letters, lines, and curves. They represent. The word "mom" represents your mother, the role of mother, and the idea of mother. In essence, you are stomping on all that comes with your mother - the loving, nurturing, live-giving, support, goodness, everything that encapsulates your mother and motherhood.

There is power, beauty, and life in words. They evoke emotion. Hook into our memories. Encapsulate ideas. Define experiences. There is one word that is greater than all. It's the word "Jesus". The way to God is through Jesus. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No man comes to the Father except through Him. Jesus is the Word - the Living and Written Word. We come to know God through His Word. He leads us to the Father by His Word. By His Word, we come to know Him and are transformed by Him into His image. In this book, we come to know Him, who is life, abundant life, life eternal.

Learning to self-feed in Scripture is fundamental to our spiritual growth. Jesus is the living Word and if we are not abiding in His written Word we are not abiding in Him. Jesus said in John 15:5, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing"*. **Our very purpose in life is to reflect God in the world; to be his image bearers. But how can we do this if we don't know what he is like? And how will the world see him if we aren't becoming like him?**

Shannon Jacobyansky is going to come to share her personal experience with Scripture Engagement.

Our goal today is to explore why engaging with God's Word is so important and help you unearth any lies you might be believing that are keeping you from engaging as much as you'd like. So let's engage Scripture together!

Why is Scripture engagement important? (15 min.)

Group Search: God's Word specifies numerous reasons for engaging with God's Word. Divide into groups to explore a passage of Scripture that gives us reasons for engaging with Scripture. Here are the passages: Psalm 19:7-11, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Peter 2:2, Hebrews 4:12-14, Hebrews 5:11-14, and James 1:25.

[Here](#) is the handout for this exercise.

Possible Group Questions:

1. What do these verses say about God and what do they say about us?
2. Which benefit of Scripture engagement do you need most in your life right now? Why?

After the groups have discussed, use the following to summarize or ask the groups to report what they found as you write their responses on the board.

Why are the Scriptures so vital to spiritual growth? [\(SLIDES listing reasons why\)](#)

[Psalm 19:7-11](#)

- They refresh our souls and make us wise (v.7).
- They give us joy (v.8).
- They help us to see what is right (vv.8-9).

- They help us see what is wrong (v.11).

[1 Peter 2:2, Hebrews 5: 11-14](#)

- They are essential for spiritual maturity (1 Peter 2:2).
- They train us to distinguish good from evil (Heb. 5:14).

[Hebrews 4:12-13](#)

- They expose the thoughts and attitudes of our heart.

[James 1:25](#)

- They give freedom and blessing.

[2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

- They teach, rebuke, correct, and train in righteousness.
- They equip us for service.

All this and more is true, but perhaps the most important reason is based on the simple description that the Bible is “God’s Word.” As Timothy Ward says, “To encounter the words of Scripture is to encounter God in action” (Timothy Ward, [Words of Life](#), 2009). Every time we come to the Bible, we can meet and know God. Engaging the Bible is a relational process, the primary means by which God can engage the believer.

When it comes down to it, isn’t having a deep, meaningful, and engaging relationship with God what you want in life? It’s what we were created for. And it’s how we are changed into his image.

Scripture engagement is foundational to the spiritual growth of all believers.

SLIDE: Share the following.

In the book [Move: What 1,000 Churches Reveal About Spiritual Growth](#), authors Hawkins and Parkinson describe research conducted on 250,000 people at 1,000 churches. The study looked at 50 different factors that impact spiritual growth (defined as loving God and loving others). Their findings?

“Nothing has a greater impact on spiritual growth than reflection on Scripture. . . . If churches could do only one thing to help people at all levels of spiritual maturity grow in their relationship with Christ, their choice is clear. They would inspire, encourage, and equip their people to read the Bible—specifically, to reflect on Scripture for meaning in their lives. . . . The Bible is the most powerful catalyst for spiritual growth. The Bible’s power to advance spiritual growth is unrivaled by anything else we’ve discovered”.

Trainer Note: This is a good time to share some of your personal experiences, both your struggles, failures, and successes. Or have others share their personal experience with Scripture engagement.