



GROWING FURTHER | WEEK 1

YOU ARE ABOUT TO EMBARK ON A SPECIAL JOURNEY.

The journey will start on the first page of the Bible and end on the last. Others will be on this journey with you. You will encourage them and they'll encourage you. Reading every word of the Bible is not the norm, nor is doing so in such a brief period of time. Something just happens when you do this. In your case, this "something" might be obvious, or maybe it won't become apparent for a while. You cannot spend much time in God's Word and not be changed, because unlike any other book, the words in the Bible are alive, they have power to change even the hardest heart. The Word says in Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV), "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." So, as you read it, allow God's Word to penetrate into those areas where the Spirit of God is trying to make changes in your life and then share those insights with those who are on this journey with you. Get ready for the ride of your life!

HOW TO USE THESE MATERIALS

If you are participating with your group in reading the Bible in 90 days, then there is a reading schedule that you need to follow to accomplish this goal. Try your best not to get behind, but if you do, there is one very important rule about catching up: Do not skip any pages. There are two reasons for this rule: Firstly, if you skip anything, by definition you will not have read the Bible from cover to cover which is an important part of this. Secondly, if you skip anything, you are unlikely to go back and read what you skipped. If you get behind just read a few extra pages every day until you are caught up. If you get way behind, set aside a large block of time, Sunday afternoon might be a good time, and just plow through the reading until you are caught up. Whatever you do, do not give up even if you go beyond the 90 days to finish.

If your group is going through this together, then there are a series of questions that you can use in your group for each week's reading. The most important question will always be the first one which is: "As you read your Bible this week, which particular thought(s) and event(s) stood out to you or surprised you? What questions came up that you would like to find the answers to?" Always allow plenty of time for anyone to ask any questions that they may have from the reading that week. If a question is raised that no one has an answer for, feel free to contact Pastors Mark or Paul in the Christian Education department, they would love to help out anyway they can. The rest of the questions are to spur discussion, but you do not have to limit your discussion to these questions alone, pursue areas that are of interest to the group.

If you are doing the reading in 90 days, then there are questions for every week in your group. If your group is doing the reading in 180 days, then you have a set of questions for every two-week period. So, buckle up and get ready to be changed by your journey.

WEEK 1

GENESIS 1:1 - EXODUS 40:38

1. How was your reading this week? What challenge did you face in getting your reading done? What was the most effective thing you did to overcome the challenges?
2. As you read your Bible this week, which particular thought(s) and event(s) stood out to you or surprised you? What questions came up that you would like to find the answers to?
3. In what ways did Adam and Eve's sin affect their offspring and the world in which they lived? How does it still affect us today?
4. What kind of man was Abraham? What did God tell Abraham to do when he first appeared to him? According to Genesis 15:1-6, what did Abraham do that caused God to credit righteousness to Abraham? What do you think it meant that God credited righteousness to him?
5. As you read about what happened to Joseph and how situations in his life worked out, what surprised you? If you experienced what Joseph went through, what do you think the hardest part would have been? What do you think enabled him to always do the right thing?
6. In what ways do you think Moses changed between his time in the Egyptian court and when God spoke to him from the burning bush 40 years later? What was Moses' excuse for not being able to do what God had asked him to do? If you had been in Moses' shoes, how would you have felt about going back to Egypt to confront Pharaoh?
7. What kind of a picture of God are you developing through your reading so far? What are some of God's characteristics and attributes that are revealed in Genesis and Exodus?

Try it!

Memorize the names of the first five books of the Bible, Genesis – Deuteronomy, before next week.

