

Level Up! Developing Deeper Intimacy with Christ

Do you feel like you have hit a plateau in your life with Christ? Maybe your faith feels static, immature, or impersonal. God wants more for you! If you have attended church you have heard that worship, prayer, Bible study, and service are how we grow in our faith, but how do we actually incorporate these disciplines into our lives? Join us for a 6-week series that will dig deeper into these tools to discover how you can equip them, by God's grace, and develop deeper intimacy with your Father.

August 9, 2026 - Part 6: Learning to Love the Bible

Be honest here. How would you grade your current relationship with the Bible? How often do you study it? When you think about reading the Bible, does it feel more like an obligation or an opportunity?

Why is it so important for us to ask questions about the Bible?

Luke 1:1-4 - Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account... so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

What does Luke's approach to writing his Gospel (and the book of Acts) tell us about how the Bible was written and how Christians should approach it with more than just "blind faith"?

3 Christian Claims about the Bible

CLAIM #1: *The Bible is our _____ for discerning truth.*

What is the claim we're making here? What are we saying - and what are we *not* saying - about the Bible?

When seeking clarity about a disputed theological issue (like the role and status of the Virgin Mary), how can we lean on Scripture as the primary standard for determining what's true?

Acts 17:11 - Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

How did the Berean Jews who'd recently become Christians demonstrate their understanding of this claim?

What would change in your day-to-day life if you believed this claim and lived accordingly?

CLAIM #2: *The Bible is God's _____.*

What does this claim mean? What *doesn't* it mean?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

What does this passage say about the nature of Scripture? And what is its purpose?

Most people read the Bible like it's a rulebook, an *Owner's Manual*, a list of inspirational quotes to get them through the day, or a collection of stories about great heroes of faith. What's wrong with these approaches?

The Story of Scripture in Seven Steps

(Old Testament) 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
(New Testament) 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____

If you believed this claim and read the Bible as such, what would change in your real, everyday life?

CLAIM #3: _____ *is the single greatest problem facing the Church today.*

Why is this such a problem? What's at stake?

What are some of the most common excuses people give for not reading the Bible more consistently? Which of these excuses have you used in the past?

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE - The *PSALM METHOD*

1. P
Psalm 119:18 - "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law."
Your notes and reflections:
2. S
1 Peter 2:2 - Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.
Your notes and reflections:
3. A
Matt 7:7 - "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."
Your notes and reflections:
4. L
James 1:22-25 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
Your notes and reflections:
5. M
2 Thess. 3:13 - And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.
Your notes and reflections:



Registration Open for Fall Core Classes

Registration is open for our Fall Core Classes - launching in August & September! Stop by the Groups table today after service to sign up for one (or more!) in person or visit our website to register online: thestory.church/groups



Serve Night for Main Street Ministries

Join us on Thursday, August 27 from 6-8:30pm as we partner with Main Street Ministries to provide and serve a meal to Cross Walk participants! Visit thestory.church/events to read more about how you can serve & register soon as spots are limited.



Save the Date: Back to School Sunday

On Sunday, August 16th, we'll pray a blessing over all our students as they enter into a new school year. It's also the launch of our Student Sessions (for 6th-12th at 11:05am) and our new Kids curriculum. If you're new to The Story, fill out the first-time registration - we can't wait to meet your kids!