

WORD
THE
COMES
ALIVE
A TRAINING CAMP



COACH'S GUIDE

THE WORD COMES ALIVE OVERVIEW:

To many people, the Bible is a daunting book. It's long. It was written thousands of years ago. It's about people and customs from cultures with which we are totally unfamiliar. But it promises great things to those who dwell in it. John 8:31 says that those who dwell in the word will know truth and be set free.

That is the sole purpose of this training camp to show people HOW to dwell in the word.

The way we practice is as you would expect. We do planned exercises. We do them together in class and encourage the trainees to continue doing them on their own through the week in the sections that begin like this: **WEEK 1 EXERCISES: EACH DAY...**

COACH: While you cannot make anyone do the exercises, you must do everything you can to encourage it. First, you should do the exercises yourself. Second, you need to include group sharing about the exercises in class time.

This guide is purposefully called a "Coach's Guide," not a "Teacher's Guide." Leading this Training Camp (or any of them) requires you to think like a coach, not a teacher. A teacher imparts information to prepare students to pass a test. A coach demonstrates skills, and leads players in practicing the skills together to enable a team to win games.

We Christians are God's team. We are not just in a game, but a battle. However, the process is the same. A Jesus recruit must be shown the skills they'll need in order to not just survive, but be victorious. Then they must be led to practice those skills over and over so that they can face the enemy in battle and win.

The lessons in this Training Camp explain important principles. But the most important part of any training camp is practicing the skills together. So, the exercises are the focal point. Doing the exercises together with the trainees and then encouraging them to do them on their own is the critical factor.

There are 6 lessons to this camp, meaning that the camp can be completed in 6 weeks. HOWEVER, it is most beneficial if done in 12 weeks, allowing 6 additional weeks to practice the concepts and giving the trainees a much greater opportunity to make Bible reading a long term habit. How this would work is explained on page 13.

In this workbook, you will see everything that's in the "Recruits" workbook plus some additional helps for you.

1. Each page of the recruits' workbook is reproduced in this guide, (with the blanks filled in).
2. Additional background notes and discussion points are added where appropriate. There's also space for you to write your own thoughts about the material.
3. At the beginning of each lesson section will be a box. You'll see this exact one at the top left of page 2.

What's the "big idea"?

Lesson 1: Hear and do is critical for every Christian. All of Life Training Center's training Camps are focused on practicing and honing that.

These boxes will contain a short statement of the main focus of the lesson to help you stay on target. The first teaching is long because there are a lot of new concepts to cover, and it includes practice time, though the practice time is brief.

Life Training Center's Training Camps are modeled after sports training camps. Each one identifies one main skill that a Christian should have. The lessons and exercises break that skill down into smaller steps that can be practiced and honed.

The inside front cover of each Training Camp workbook explains how they are different from typical Bible studies.

Michael Jordan is a superstar athlete and businessman. He recognizes the need to constantly hone our fundamentals.

Here's how Vince Lombardi, the Green Bay Packers legendary football coach, began the 1961 pre-season training camp. Football in hand, Lombardi walked to the front of the room, held out the pigskin in front of him and said, "Gentlemen, this is a football."

TRAINING CAMP



In only five words, Lombardi communicated his point: We're going to start with the basics and make sure we're executing all the fundamentals. Why in the world would a seasoned coach talk to professional athletes like that? Lombardi operated on a simple philosophy. He believed that excellence could be best achieved by perfecting the basics of the sport.

"Gentlemen, this is a football"



Life Training Center's Training Camps bring together "pros" and "rookies" to learn from and sharpen each other. It is a concentrated time of learning new skills and sharpening old ones. Michael Jordan said, "You have to monitor your fundamentals constantly. The minute you get away from fundamentals, the bottom can fall out of your game, your schoolwork, your job, whatever you're doing. Get the fundamentals down and the level of everything you do will rise." We must keep our fundamentals sharp at all times. The Training Camps are a means of ensuring that we are constantly raising the level of everything we do for God's Kingdom.

Professional and amateur athletes, as well as performing artists, and even sales people have coaches. Often when a professional's performance is slipping, the first thing a coach will do is take them back to the fundamentals. No matter what level they're at, rehearsing the fundamentals is... well, fundamental. We never get too good at what we do that we have no need to brush up on the basics.

NAME & DATE

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This page gives background information on the Bible Training Camp. It's very important to remind the trainees throughout the Camp sessions that the purpose is not to learn information, but to see into God's heart. As we do that, the information and theological truths will also become apparent. But if we aim for theological truths, we may very well still miss God's heart.

the HEART of God

This is the first in a series of Training Camps that all aim to teach Christians one skill, "Hear & Do." That is, HEAR God's voice & ACT ON what you hear.

The last Training Camp in the series is "Catch the Wind": from Isaiah 40:30-31, which says in part, "...they that wait on the Lord, will soar on wings like eagles..." Wind represents the Holy Spirit. This is a picture of being completely Spirit led, riding the wind to whatever targets He sets. I mention that here, to show you what the end goal is. That's what all the Training Camps are working toward.

We start the series with this, the Word Comes Alive. It's about learning to hear God speak THROUGH His Word. You may have heard the Bible referred to as the Owner's Manual or God's Instruction Manual and it is!!! It's all that and more.

In this Training Camp, we're going to be emphasizing that scripture is the window into God's heart!!! To get the most out of it as an Instruction Manual, first you need to come to it as a window through which you can see what God cares about.

I call these studies Training Camps because in them, we demonstrate and practice skills of godliness. What we'll be demonstrating and practicing together is a skill I call "Bible Listening." Yes, we are going to be reading the Bible together, but we're going to be doing it with our ears toward God. Before we read, we'll ask Him to speak. As we read, we do it with the question to Him, "what's on Your heart today, God?" This different attitude is described very clearly in a song, that we use as a prayer, "I Want to Know You".

When Your heart beats, I want to feel it.
When Your voice speaks, I want to hear it.
When Your eyes cry, I want to catch the tears.
I wanna know You.¹

Join us as we look into the heart of God.

-Kathie Baxter, LTC Head Coach

¹Author: Darrell Evans • ©1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

What's the "big idea"?

Introduction: Hear and do is critical for every Christian. All of Life Training Center's training. Camps are focused on practicing and honing that.

We call these training camps because we focus on training Christians in the skills necessary for soaring ever higher. According to Michael Jordan, we must never neglect the fundamentals. In order to soar higher and achieve greater and greater things, we need to focus on the fundamentals.

THE TARGET

I. AN OVERVIEW OF THE TRAINING CAMPS: LEARNING ONE SKILL...

A. Hear God & Obey (Luke 8:21)... **Hear & Do!**

Jesus said,

21 ... "My mother and My brothers are those who hear and do the word of God."

First, let me tell you about the LAST Training Camp in the series, so you'll know what we're working toward. It's called...

II. EAGLES TRAINING CAMP

Final camp in the series. All the others build toward this. The name comes from Isaiah 40:30-31, which is about...

A. Soaring ...

30 Youths may faint and grow weary, and young men stumble and fall, 31 but those who (wait¹) in the LORD will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.

They soar, gain new strength, don't get weary, and don't faint. Those are all qualities we need as Christians today, trying to live a life pleasing to God in an increasingly hostile world. Notice it all starts with waiting on God. That's what we'll focus on in this training camp, waiting on God through our Bible reading.

I'll do my best to encourage you that You can discover God's heart through regular Bible reading. I'll show you how and we'll practice it together. The Bible is not just a book of rules. It's not just a history book. It's not even JUST a manual for life. It's all that and so much more. It's a way for you to come into God's presence and experience more and more the power God that comes from being in His presence; power for ourselves and to reach a lost world.



THE TARGET

I. AN OVERVIEW OF THE TRAINING CAMPS: LEARNING ONE SKILL...

1. Hear God & Obey (Luke 8:21)... **Hear & Do!**

II. EAGLES TRAINING CAMP

A. Soaring on the wind (Isaiah 40:30-31).

1. Wind represents the **Holy Spirit**.
2. Let the wind take us to the **targets** God has for each of us.

III. WORD COMES ALIVE TRAINING CAMP

A. NOT Bible study, Bible listening.

1. STUDY: learning general commands, principles, truths.

LISTENING: **hearing specific** instructions, truths.

2. STUDY: our agenda.

LISTENING: **God's** agenda.

3. STUDY: God, me, and...

LISTENING: **God & me**.

4. STUDY: information about God.

LISTENING: **knowing** God.

IV. KINGDOM BUILDING

A. Why does it matter? For the whole church.

1. Building a church in face of the **gates of Hell**.
 - a. Matthew 16:13-19 (16-18).



2. The lessons. 1 Peter 2:2-5, a spiritual **building**.

1. Wind represents the **Holy Spirit**
2. Let the wind take us to the **targets** God has for each of us.

In other words, be Spirit led!!! It's the ADULT eagle that soars. Part of being an adult eagle is feeding yourself, reproducing, and feeding others.

So the focus of the final camp is passing on what we have learned, and practiced. That IS THE MAIN TARGET for all Christians. Being Spirit led and passing on what we know is the ultimate target of all these camps. To get there, we have to practice some things. So we'll be working on the necessary skills all along in all the training camps, especially the ONE SKILL, "hear & do".

III. BIBLE TRAINING CAMP

A. NOT Bible study, Bible listening.

Our ONE skill is "hear & do"! In this first training camp, we concentrate on the "hear" part of that; reading the Bible, EXPECTING God to speak! There are differences between Bible study and Bible listening. Here's how I see it.

1. **STUDY:** learning general commands, principles, truths

Good and necessary, but there's more...

LISTENING: hearing specific instructions, truths.

I'm going to show you HOW that can happen, and we're going to practice it together.

2. **STUDY:** our agenda.

I'm not necessarily talking about being selfish. "What's the Bible say about loving my neighbor, being a good employee, spouse, parent, child, etc." These are good things, necessary things, but there's more...

LISTENING: God's agenda.

"I just want to know what's on Your heart today, God. What's important to You? What is giving You joy today? What's making You angry? What's grieving You?" I'm just reading through the Bible, and giving God opportunity to show me whatever He wants me to know today.

3. **STUDY:** God, me, and....

Again, this is a good and necessary thing. The commentaries, the study Bible footnotes, the studies that someone else has created. Valuable information, insight, but there's more...

LISTENING: God & me.

Not me, Oswald Chambers & God; or me, Beth Moore & God, or me, Max Lucado & God. Just God (through His written word) and me. He wants to talk to me! There is a wealth of godly, knowledgeable saints who have gone before us. We need to avail ourselves of those resources. BUT, we must not always rely on an intermediary to interpret God to us, or to speak to us about God. This leads to the final difference I see...

4. **STUDY:** information about God.

LISTENING: knowing God.

This is the bottom line. It's like the difference between reading a biography about someone or conversing with the person about whom the biography was written.

I don't know where you are in what the church has typically called a "daily devotional" (what I'm calling Bible listening). I'm calling it that to emphasize the difference between what I'm encouraging you to do and what you may have come to think of when people tell you to read your Bible every day. Bible listening is reading the Bible expectantly; expecting God to speak. Bible listening is the first of many skills that build on each other in the whole Training Camp series. Bible

listening (hear and obey) is critical to beginning to know truth and being set free. The second camp is “Power” the power of the skill of truth applied. Those skills will be critical in learning the skill of how to put on ALL the armor of God, which is the third Training Camp. All of those will be critical in learning the skill of how to pray, which is the fourth Training Camp. All of those skills will be critical to learning the skill of how to live our destiny, which is the fifth Training Camp. All the skills we will have learned in those 5 camps will be critical to learning the skill of being an eagle, which is the last Camp in this series. An eagle who soars, riding on the winds of the Holy Spirit, being totally Spirit directed.

IV. KINGDOM BUILDING

A. Why does it matter?

First, why does it matter in the broad sense. Why does it matter to the church at large whether ordinary Christians read the Bible regularly, listening for God to speak? Why does it matter whether I do that?

1. Building a church in face of the gates of Hell.

Again, I’ll talk more about this in later Training Camps, and show how this one piece fits in with so many others that I think are largely missing in the church today, but here’s one quick point.

a. Matthew 16:13-19 (16-18)

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!”

¹⁷And Jesus responded, “Simon son of Jonah, you are blessed because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the forces of Hades will not overpower it.

Jesus’ promise was based, not just on the concept of the confession Peter made, or the person of Peter himself, but on the process. Peter didn’t come up with this by pondering and brainstorming. He HEARD from God. That’s the “one skill” I mentioned. Hear & do. Jesus shows us here that the one skill we need in order to build a church that hell can’t step up against is hear & do. In this training camp, we’ll be working on hear & do through our Bible listening.

B. The lessons. 1 Peter 2:2-5, A spiritual **building**.

²Like newborn infants, desire the pure spiritual milk, so that you may grow by it for your salvation, ³since you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Coming to Him, a living stone — rejected by men but chosen and valuable to God — ⁵you yourselves, as living stones, are being built into a spiritual house for a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

A sacred enclosure. Specifically a wall of protection for you and yours; built brick by brick. I’ll give you the bricks in the teaching part. But it’s up to you to use them to build. In this camp, we’ll practice it together.

What's the "big idea"?

Lesson 1: If we want different results from our attempts to train people to read the Bible, we have to try a new approach.

NEW APPROACH...

Each week, I'm going to have a Bible word, and another word to represent that same concept. We tend to hear some of these words over and over until perhaps we aren't really thinking about what they mean. Faith is important. It's a good Bible word. But how exactly does faith apply to Bible reading?

I'm using the word "Expect," and specifically I want us to change our expectations about Bible reading. What I will teach you is powerful, but I admit that it might take a while for you to get it. So keep an open mind. Persevere.

I. BREAK THE "TRY, FAIL, GUILT, GIVE UP" CYCLE

AUTHOR'S EXPERIENCE: I've been a Christian for 40+ years. All that time, I STUDIED the Bible, went to church, small groups, other Bible studies. But I never nailed down the habit of daily Bible reading. I heard it over and over, "read the Bible regularly." I wanted to, I TRIED, but failed time after time. I became a Bible teacher. I became the Director of Discipleship at my church. Now, I was telling other people, "read the Bible regularly!" but I wasn't doing it, until God showed me a new approach.

Based on my experience, and scientific studies, I don't assume anything. I don't assume that anyone is in the habit of daily Bible reading. I don't assume that anyone has seen and experienced the difference between Bible reading or Bible study and Bible listening. I'm approaching this from the perspective that nobody participating in this camp is practicing Bible listening.

Coach: At some point, you should probably ask each of your participants point blank, "are you reading your Bible regularly?" Don't do it in public because you don't want to risk embarrassing anyone. But please don't think the question doesn't need to be asked.

Also, I know THIS IS HARD for a lot of people. In this Camp, I'm giving you tools, and encouraging you to work together to help break the cycle and EXPERIENCE the benefits you've been missing if you're like me.



LESSON

1

NEW APPROACH, NEW RESULTS

I. BREAK THE "TRY, FAIL, GUILT, GIVE UP" CYCLE



A. Why does it matter? John 8:31-32.

1. If YOU dwell (continue) in my word, truth sets you free.
2. God needs real disciples.

B. Different Approach (change things up to break the cycle).

1. Coaching vs. Teaching.
2. Individualized encouragement and support!
3. Tools.
4. Do it together.

A. Why does it matter?

John 8:31-32,

On a personal level, what difference will it make FOR YOU, if you read the Bible regularly?

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples. ³²You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

1. If **YOU** dwell (continue) in my word, truth sets **you** free.

YOU! If YOU dwell in the word... not the pastor, not the devotional writer, not the Bible study teacher. If YOU dwell in the word, YOU'LL know truth, YOU'LL be set free. It doesn't matter if you read through the Bible in a year. But it does matter that you read the Bible thoroughly, regularly, and repeatedly.

2. God needs **real** disciples.

According to John 8:31-32, God's definition of a REAL disciple is someone who dwells in the scripture. That's His definition, not mine. By His definition, I spent most of my Christian life as a fake disciple. This is another reason why this training camp is the first step in the process of becoming an eagle; soaring, being Spirit led. The adult eagle not only knows how to feed itself, it does that regularly! That's the way it lives.

B. Different Approach (change things up to break the cycle).

Here's the cycle I'm talking about. You start a "read the Bible in a year" program. You do great for a while, but then fall behind. You try to catch up, but it's too overwhelming. You get so discouraged, feel guilty and can't deal with it. So you give up. COACH: Ask people if they identify. If you have any who don't acknowledge facing this challenge, it could be because they've never even tried reading the Bible. But some may actually have the habit of daily Bible reading. I encourage you to ask them, "what are you doing to help those who don't?"

1. **Coaching** vs. **Teaching**

What do you picture in your mind when I say the word "teach." (teacher, chalkboard, desks, classroom) What do you picture when I say "coach." (demonstrations, hands-on, practice.) What's different? What's the goal of a teacher? (pass a test) What's the goal of a coach? Win the game through changed behavior.

2. Individualized **encouragement** and **support!**

COACH: Ask for people's email and phone. Contact them through the week, not to add more guilt, but to encourage and give pointers.

3. **Tools.**

Each week, I'm going to show you tools to help you master the principles. I call them bricks for building new habits and getting new results.

4. Do it **together..**

What I'm asking you to do, we are going to practice together. Learn from me. Learn from each other. Like I said, Training Camp. Everyone in here has different experiences, levels. It's not just about me imparting all my "wisdom" to you. I regularly learn from conducting these training camps.

Having said all that, here's the first brick. You see it at the top. You'll notice two words. The small word in parentheses is a Bible word, faith. It's a good Bible word. We all know we need faith, right? But what does that actually look like? And, how do I use faith to read the Bible?

There are many good Bible words that we may have heard so much that we're kind of numb to them. So, I'm going to use a different word to try to wake us up a little and hopefully clarify how these Bible words can be applied. In this camp, we're talking about Bible reading. So, what does **faith** look like when I'm reading my Bible.? It comes down to expectation. What do I expect to

happen when I read my Bible? If you're like many, you don't expect much more than to be able to check it off. Even if your expectations are higher, you may be expecting some of the things I mentioned earlier; information, general commandments, general promises. I believe we can and must expect so much more. We MUST change our expectations to change the outcome.

Now, let's look at how we can do that...

II. CHANGE YOUR EXPECTATIONS

The cornerstone of our spiritual building is God. He's the starting and ending point for building anything of value. But, like these Bible words, we may have heard that so much, it's stopped registering. We've stopped thinking about what it means for God to be the cornerstone of our spiritual house. So I'm going to start with expectations, which is my word for faith. Expectation: that's our first brick.

We must change our expectation to change our outcome. Change our expectations to be sure that we're really making God the cornerstone. Here's my definition of expectation. It's very simple. What are you looking for? What are you expecting to happen? Because you will act... you'll choose what you do and don't do, based on your expectations.

If you expect someone for dinner, you'll do certain things. You'll have a meal ready. You probably clean up a bit more than usual. Maybe you use the good china. Your preparations may be different depending on the occasion or who it is you're expecting. But you WOULD do SOME preparation. You wouldn't just wait to see if they really showed up first.

Changing our expectation is the first step to changing our result. I've already mentioned the first part of what that would look like in the introduction.

A. Not reading just to **gain information**

Bible listening, not Bible study. YOU read the Bible, and listen for God to speak to you through His word. Look at it like this

B. Investing time to **meet with God**.

1. Exodus 25:22 "**I will meet with you there...**" Where?

and SPEAK with you. Where is "there"?

²²I will meet with you there above the mercy seat, between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the testimony; I will speak with you from there about all that I command you regarding the Israelites.

II. CHANGE YOUR EXPECTATIONS

A. Not reading just to **gain information**.

B. Investing time to **meet with God**.

1. Exodus 25:22 "**I will meet with you there...**" Where?



2. John 5:39 "You pore over **the scriptures...** they **testify** about Me."

3. John 10:27 "...My sheep hear My voice..."

4. Hebrews 4:12 "...the word of God is living..."

“Over” the Ark of the Covenant. The ark has angels. It’s covered in gold. God said, “I’ll meet with you OVER the ark of the testimony.” An ark is a box, a container. This box contains the testimony. The record of God’s instructions and His dealings with His people.

Where do we find the testimony today? We don’t have to build a special room...

2. John 5:39 “You pore over **the scriptures**... they **testify** about Me.”

The scripture is now the container of the testimony. God said to the author, “just as surely as I promised Moses that I would meet with him and speak to him over the container of the testimony, I will meet with YOU and speak to YOU over the container of the testimony.” God’s word, the Bible.

Is this for anyone? I’ve subsequently discovered that the same promise of Exodus 25:22 is in the Old Testament five times. Four of those are spoken to Moses. But, significantly, one of them is to ALL of Israel, all of God’s people.

And we see in the New Testament that it’s God’s plan to speak to His people, all of us.

3. John 10:27 “...My sheep hear My voice...”

We’re supposed to be hearing God’s voice. Is it as complicated as we sometimes think? Or is it as simple as meeting with God over the container of the testimony, and having faith; that is, EXPECTING Him to show up and speak.

Let’s look at one more New Testament passage that connects all this to the Scriptures, the word of God.

4. Hebrews 4:12 “...the word of God is living...”

Be honest. Is the scripture alive to you? The Scripture is a window into God’s heart! Is that your experience?

Testimonies:

Pastor/missionary Dave M: After going through the Bible Training Camp, he thanked me for helping him see the difference between Bible study and Bible listening. He said he realized he approached the Bible, even in his daily devotional time, looking for information; something to preach or teach. After this, he separates his study time from his devotional time which is just to hear God’s heart.

Friend, Clare S. She saw me with my Bible and journal and expressed interest. This was before I had learned a lot of what I’m teaching in these Training Camps. I got her a journal that had the one year through-the-Bible reading plan. Every once in a while I’d ask her about it. She admitted that she was struggling with it. She finally told me she’d made a decision. She was going to get through the Bible once. Then she’d decide if she was ever going to read it again.

A few years later, after I had developed this Training Camp, I showed her the process I’m going to show you and we practiced it together. She was amazed at the difference. She couldn’t get over the fact that God would speak to her, just an ordinary person.

Since I’m saying that expectation = faith, let’s see what the Bible says about faith.

III. ACTIONS OF FAITH

If you believe the scripture is alive, if you expect God to speak to you when you read, then you'll act in certain ways, whether you've seen it yet or not.

If you invite some friends over for dinner, you expect them to come. If you really believe they're coming, you'll do certain things. You'll clean up a little more. You'll prepare some food. You will DO some things differently because you expect your friends for dinner. You have faith..

A. Hebrews 11:1

¹Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.

Here's another way of saying Hebrews 11:1.

1. Faith doesn't always yield **immediate, tangible results**, but it **always yields results!**
2. Faith has to be based on **truth...**

B. We'll use a tool many call journaling. I call it Bible listening... The reason it's effective is that I'm saying **BY MY ACTIONS**, "God, I know You're here, ready to talk to me, I'm ready to **capture** what You're going to say!"

I'll ask you to...

1. ...pull out the journal with the Bible
2. ...pray, "Thank You, God, that You're here to talk to me
3. ...read with highlighter in hand
4. ...hold the pen over the journal
5. ...start to write

These are all actions of faith. You're acting like you EXPECT God to show up and speak.

III. ACTIONS OF FAITH

A. Hebrews 11:1

1. Faith doesn't always yield **immediate, tangible results**, but it **always yields results!**

2. Faith has to be based on **truth**, ...God is here! God's word is ALIVE!

B. We'll use a tool many call journaling. I call it Bible listening. The reason it's effective is that I'm saying **BY MY ACTIONS**,

"God, I know You're here, ready to talk to me, I'm ready to **capture** what You're going to say!"

When I...

1. ...pull out the journal with my Bible.
2. ...pray, "Thank You, God, that You're here to talk to me.
3. ...read with highlighter in hand.
4. ...hold the pen over the journal.
5. ...start to write.

IV. PRACTICE TOGETHER: METHOD

A. Bible soaking: Read, reflect, capture.

1. Pray

Remember, we're EXPECTING God to meet with us and speak to us. We said that a church that prevails is built on the process of first hearing God speak, then doing something about what we hear. So, don't just jump into reading without acknowledging our need and His promise to meet with us and speak to us.

2. Read: highlight or underline what stands out to you.

This could be a lot or a little. A verse or two, a phrase, or a word.

3. Reflect: Review and choose.

Look back over what you highlighted. If you've highlighted a number of things, choose ONE to reflect on and expect to CAPTURE something God wants to speak to you about it.

4. Capture ...S•O•A•K

This is the crux of the process. Some may have heard of this as SOAP. I've changed it to SOAK, because that's what we're doing. SOAKing in the word, even if it's just for a bit.

- a **Scripture** that stands out to you. That's the word or verse we highlighted.
- an **Observation** about it.

What do you see? Or an "observation" can be a question, perhaps about what you don't see that you want to see.

- how you can **Apply** it
- Kneel in Prayer** about it

For the first time practicing this, we're going to break it W-A-A-A-A-Y down. I've watched the Yankees hitting coach doing a clinic with a college team. Swinging a bat at a baseball takes less than a second, but for the clinic, the coach is taking the players hands and arms, and the bat, and holding it with him in the right position through each part of the swing. This takes several minutes. To do this on your own could take 15 minutes or 45, depending on how much scripture you read. We're going to read a very small portion, but take much longer at it today.

IV. PRACTICE TOGETHER: METHOD

A. Bible listening: Read, reflect, capture.

- Pray.
- Read: highlight or underline what stands out to you.
- Reflect: Review and choose.
- Capture: S•O•A•K.
 - Note a **Scripture** that stands out to you.
 - Write an **Observation** about it.
 - Write an **Application**.
 - Kneel in Prayer** about it (write a prayer).

PART I	PART II	PART III
<input type="radio"/> Genesis 1:26-27	<input type="radio"/> Luke 1:26-35	<input type="radio"/> Luke 1:36-38

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."

²⁷So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.

Luke 1:26-35

²⁶In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And the angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, favored woman! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰Then the angel told her:

Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call His name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.

³⁴Mary asked the angel, "How can this be, since I have not been intimate with a man?"

³⁵The angel replied to her:

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:36-38

³⁶And consider your relative Elizabeth — even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God."

³⁸"I am the Lord's slave," said Mary. "May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

6

COACH: Each lesson session, I'm going to talk for a while, then you'll need to lead the recruits in scripture soaking together. AND, most importantly, encourage the recruits to keep doing it through the week. Next week when you come together, start out by asking, "How did it go? What did God say to you as you did this on your own"?

Be prepared to share something He said to you.

The most important part of this training camp is not for me or you to be telling what we know about the Bible, but for the trainees to get into it and see what GOD has to say to THEM through the scripture.

COACH: I encourage you to call your trainees during the week to see how it's going. NO GUILT! Any effort toward Bible listening should be applauded. Just encourage, pray with, see if they have any questions, or can use some further ideas.

- B. Reading plan chosen to help **build the habit**. It's a starting point! Are you faithful in small things? You will be faithful in big things! (Luke 16:10)

Look at the reading plan beginning on page 21. Here's how it's supposed to work. It doesn't cover the whole Bible, but hits highlights from beginning to end.

It's designed to AVOID GUILT! No dates!!!

If you miss a day (or more), DON'T TRY TO CATCH UP! Just pick up where you left off. The readings are very short.

Each day is divided into three even shorter portions. If you have time, read all three. If not, just read one portion. They're not necessarily connected, but it's all God's word, so God may show you a connection. The three reading portions also offer you options. There's usually something from the Old Testament, and something from the New. Maybe nothing stands out to you from part 1 or 2, but something grabs you from part 3.

Whatever portion you do read, take time to do the SOAKing exercise. Reflect. Give God opportunity to speak to you, and capture something.

- B. Reading plan chosen to help **build the habit**. It's a starting point! Are you faithful in small things? You will be faithful in big things! (Luke 16:10)

V. WHAT NOW? TIPS

- A. Make it **permanent**, make it **yours**! Practice on your own what we just did together. Work on this every day. Do Day 2 tomorrow and keep going.
 - a. Pray. Thank God for **meeting** with you.
 - b. **Read** something each day.
 - c. **Reflect** on it.
 - d. **Capture** something. Write in your journal, S•O•A•K.
- B. Pastor Jack Hayford, "This **light** (by your bed) doesn't go out until His **light** (God's word) goes in."
- C. Next week we're going to talk about God and goals.

A S•O•A•King EXAMPLE:

Scripture • Observation • Application • Kneel

Today's Reading: Acts 2

S: vs 17 ...I will pour out My Spirit on all humanity... (HCSB)

O: How can that be true, God? Other places in scripture you make it clear that MOST people will not receive You, so they don't have Your Spirit. People who do believe in You, have Your Spirit, but many don't believe in the baptism of the Spirit, or don't seem to have Your Spirit POURED OUT on them. I know Your word is true, but I don't see how this statement can be true.
 ..."People have umbrellas."

A: That probably means that I have umbrellas that I'm holding over me; thinking they're a good thing, but they're keeping me from receiving all that You are pouring out on me.

K: God, please show me what umbrellas I'm holding, and help me to get rid of them.

V. WHAT NOW?...

A. Make it **permanent**, make it **yours**!

1. Pray...
2. **Read**....
3. **Reflect** on it
4. **Capture** something. Write in your journal, **S•O•A•K**.

B. TIP: Pastor Jack Hayford, "This light (by your bed) doesn't go out until His light (God's word) goes in."

COACH: Something I've done that is simple and easy is to ask the trainees if they want a reminder. Then get their cell numbers and each evening, text this simple message:

"Don't turn out the light. "

Sometimes the members will reply with a thumbs up, or nothing. But it's a great simple reminder and encouragement with no pressure.

C. Next lesson we're going to talk about God and goals.

Note the author's example on p 8: Here's one of the author's SOAKings. This is just to give you another idea of how this might work. I was reading Acts 2 about God pouring out His Spirit. It stood out to me that it said He was pouring out His Spirit on ALL humanity. My "observation" was in the form of a question.

COACH: Remember, this training camp can be done in six sessions, but I encourage you to do it in twelve weeks.

The first week, watch Video Lesson #1 together, then go through the practice exercise. Do this each "odd" week. On the "even" weeks, there will be no lesson. Give everyone opportunity to share how it's been going, and exchange hints. Also, do a practice SOAKing together again. When you do that in class together and allow people to share what they've done with it, you will gain valuable insights into how someone may be struggling. It will also be a chance to give enthusiastic pats on the back, and for everyone to see how others are doing it.

PRACTICE/SHARING WEEKS

COACH: The second week, (and each succeeding “even” week) DO NOT have a lesson. Spend time sharing how the homework went. Encourage people to share the good, the bad and the ugly. Remember, NO GUILT!

It’s very likely that if they’re honest, the recruits will tell you about some challenges they face in implementing this new habit. Pray in advance that God will give you wisdom and ideas to help them find what works for them. Continue to pray for this throughout the camp.

Then, practice the SOAK method together again. And share. Be as encouraging as you possibly can. Be as open as you can to the possibility that what someone shares may be what God is saying to them. If someone is way off theologically, then that must be addressed and corrected, but do so as gently as possible. Show from scripture why they are wrong, but encourage them not to give up. Remind them that over time as they read the scriptures more and more, they’ll see truth more and more.

Some possible discussion questions to start this session with.

How did the homework go?

Who wants to talk about their experience this week? Good, bad, or ugly.

Are there any questions you want to ask? For instance, Why did the author suggest doing this or that? What if you do this instead?

Are there any insights you might have after trying this for a week?

The first week’s brick was about our expectations. Did you realize anything about what you’ve been looking for, preparing for when you read the Bible?

AUTHOR’S NOTE: What I’ve shown you to do is a model. It’s a starting point. It’s not written in stone. There are reasons why this method works. But we can adapt it to fit our own distinctive characteristics, life situation, and schedule. I will share and expand on that in a future lesson video.

RECAP: The first week’s brick was about our expectations. What are you looking for, preparing for? We should be expecting and preparing to meet with God!



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