

Introduction.

I Love My Church: Because We Love God's Word!! I remember over 5 years ago when God was calling me to find another student ministry, I was so discouraged because every student ministry I ran into just wanted their next youth pastor to be like a fun coordinator. One church just wanted me to reach out to the skaters of the community. Skaters need Jesus, but skaters don't need me. Then Mrs. Dianne Appleby called me and asked if I would be interested in Capshaw. I told her my situation, and she said that they were mostly looking for someone to come in and teach God's Word to the teens at Capshaw. I came in a couple of months later and preached a practice sermon on a Friday night. I heard some other guys came in and preached with some magic tricks. God literally changed my message and I preached a practice sermon on how to be persecuted for your faith in school. If there's ever a way not to get a youth pastor job...that's it! But God had different plans. Capshaw hired me because yall love God's Word! Then we started out in January of 2008 with Genesis. Working our way through the Bible. Tonight we are 61 books into the 66. We will finish with Revelation through April and May. And its all because of God's grace that we have a church that loves God's Word! I love my church! We have a senior pastor who preaches the Word. We have teenagers who love God's Word! This isn't supposed to be happening. Most youth ministries are an hour worth of games and fun and then a short devotional. You're weird! You're not supposed to devour God's Word like you do. But you sit there for 45 minutes every Wednesday and want more and more. I'm so blessed to be here. I love my church

Need.

Everyone struggles with the Bible. To believe it. To read it. To understand it. To live it. Are you in here tonight as an unbeliever? New believer? Struggling believer? Growing?

Bible.

2 Peter 1:16. What the Bible is not.

The Bible is not a bunch of fairytales. (Tangled, Shrek, Disney movies, Aesop's Fables)

1. Pied Piper. Guy leads out rats. Not paid. Leads out kids. Original: kids drown.
2. Little Red Riding Hood. Girl gets eaten. No woodsman to save her. Strangers.
3. Sleeping Beauty: I can't even tell that one.
4. Rumpelstiltskin: Too weird to tell.
5. Goldilocks: Bears rip her to shreds and eat her. Don't break-in and steal.
6. Hansel and Gretel: No oven, sawhorse. No witch, the devil. Kids slit devil's wife's throat.
7. Cinderella. Step sisters cut off parts of their own feet to fit into glass slipper for prince.

"We were eyewitnesses." Over 500 people saw this! This isn't Bigfoot, Lochness, etc. This isn't a bunch of people on drugs. The Bible is millions of people, over 2000 years of recorded history by over 40 different authors in 66 different books that all ties together perfectly.

While we're at it:

Its not a bunch of rules.

It is not irrelevant.

Its not even a bunch of truths.

The Bible is one big true story about Jesus, and how He changes our lives for Him.

2 Peter 1:17-18. What the Bible is about.

The story of the Transfiguration. Peter was there! What happened? They heard God's voice! How can we hear God's voice? What did God say? All about Jesus! When God speaks, its all about Jesus! That experience was a game changer for Peter. When you hear God's voice and see Jesus' glory, you've gotten a glimpse of God, true glory, and even eternity. You live the rest of your life for that!

The Bible is about Jesus! The Bible is about the Gospel! How God is pleased with Jesus and only then how God can be pleased with us. God is pleased with Jesus because of His perfection. God can't be pleased any other way. God was pleased with His creation. So how can God be pleased with you? Not by your life. Not by your obedience. Not by your effort. But by your faith in Jesus. Not because you're faith even has to reach a certain strength, but because its in Jesus. Its not about YOUR faith, but its all about WHO your faith is in. So when you read the Bible, think Jesus! This is why we've gone from Genesis and moving to Revelation in a Christ-centered way!

2 Peter 1:19. What the Bible is.

How to hear God's voice in your life. What would God say to you? God's voice is God's Word! Hebrews 4 - Its living! Hebrews 1 - Its from Jesus! Its from the Holy Spirit! This is what God has wanted us to know for thousands of years. He doesn't speak to every single person audibly because that could be extremely confusing! God wrote His Word down for us! Everything we need for our lives and godliness is found in His Word (2 Pet 1). There's nothing that God could say to you audibly that's not already in His Word?

2 Peter 1:19b. What to do with the Bible.

Pay attention to it like you would a lamp. A flashlight. The light in your room! Are you paying attention to the light? Or are you living in the darkness? Bumping around? Tripping over things? Not seeing the full picture? Not knowing which way to go? We turn on the lights at home when it becomes nighttime. No one drives around at night with their headlights off. No one goes to their room to study at night without turning their light or lamp on. We need light to see how to live for Jesus in this dark world! Be a person of the light and not of the dark. Don't live like the dark but listen to and live in the light! The light in the Word is the glory of Jesus attracting us constantly to Him.

Take the 30 Day Challenge!

When to Read God's Word:

Every day. Psalm 1. Meditate day and night.

Figure out which part of the day you're best at it.

Keep a Bible by your bed or on your desk and don't let it move.

Don't schedule anything else during that time.

Check your Bible app just like you do your twitter, instagram, and snapchat apps.

Where to Read God's Word:

Find your special, quiet place. Bedroom. Closet. Bathroom. Car. In Class. Starbucks.

What to Read in God's Word:

Follow our NETMA reading.

Read through the Bible in a year.

Read a Psalm and/or Proverb a day.

How to Read God's Word:

Pray - Read - Pray

Underline. Circle. Star. Write in margins. Make your own system. Pray through that stuff.

Journal thoughts. A notebook. Notepad app. Word document on your computer.

Pray - Read - Journal - Pray through what you've journaled.

Pray as you read. Let the Scripture be your prayer journal.

Miscellaneous:

Get an accountability partner tonight.

Tweet, Facebook, or Instagram favorite verses each day.

Remember you won't understand everything, but God will speak to you specifically about something!

2 Peter 1:20. Who wrote the Bible.

Think about what's happening here. Peter is encouraging you to do this because he knows its true! Don't forget, this Scripture may have written down by men, but it is from God! The men writing it are just part of the miracle! Could God have just dropped it out of the sky? Sure! But men being a part of it makes them an eye witness as to what happened. Every man who wrote down Scripture was an eye witness to God's miracles! Moses, David, Gospel writers, and now Peter!

Peter walked with Jesus. Jesus called Him. Peter walked on the water. Peter denied Him. Peter repented. Peter became the the elder/pastor of the disciples. Peter was the closest one to Jesus. Now Peter is writing to us and urging us...pay close attention to the Scriptures! They are about Jesus! I saw Him! I knew Him! I'm writing you by the power of the Holy Spirit! Hear God's voice about Him!