

January 9, 2022

First Things First

Pastor David Uth

Passage: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Background

Today we launch a brand-new series called “First Things First” as we explore four important spiritual practices that will help shape us to be more like Jesus every day. At the beginning of a new year, many of us make resolutions or set hopeful goals for the months ahead – exercise more, read through the Bible, be more generous, or finally finish that house project. We often start well, but quickly get discouraged. This series will not only show us the beauty of daily spiritual disciplines but will give us practical handles for starting (and practicing) these ‘holy habits’ so that we can grow closer to Christ than ever before in 2022. In today’s message, Pastor David will remind us how reliable and relevant the Word of God is for our lives today and how daily intake of His Word is the best diet for our spiritual lives.

Service Notes

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Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- What is your biggest goal for this year? Have you set any goals for your relationship with Jesus (reading, giving, serving, sharing your faith)?

Talk it Over

- What is the most helpful plan or strategy you have found to consistently read God’s Word? What is one daily routine that helps keep you in God’s Word? Do you currently have a plan for Scripture reading this year? What is your greatest struggle when it comes to daily Bible reading? What’s one way we can help each other overcome the difficulties?
- **Read again 2 Timothy 3:14-17.** Why do you think Paul reminded Timothy about his childhood? What does this teach us about Timothy’s family? What does this teach us about the relevancy of Scripture for our lives today? Why is it important to remember the ‘source’ of Scripture (‘God-breathed’)? How does God’s Word ‘equip’ us for every ‘good work’? In what areas of your life right now, has God been working through Scripture to ‘teach, reproof, correct, or train’ you?
- **Read Psalm 119:9-16.** What are the different ways the psalmist refers to God’s Word? What can we learn from the psalmist’s attitude toward God’s Word? According to these verses, what does God’s Word do in our lives?
- **Read Matthew 7:24-27 and James 1:22-25.** What do these passages teach us about the importance of reading/hearing God’s Word AND obeying God’s Word?

Live it Out

- Will you commit as a group to reading the seven passages provided for you this week and to share your reflections (SOAP) at your next meeting?
- Daily Scripture reading can be found at www.firstorlando.com/40days.