

## Session 1

# The Crisis of Biblical Illiteracy (A Word-Saturated Disciple)

### Our Aim

The Church must be intentional in developing Word-saturated disciples. The word is not merely for our information but for our transformation! In the final analysis, getting into the Word is not about **mastering the Word** but rather, it's about being **mastered by the Word**. Let's aim to be a Word-saturated disciple of Christ!

### Scriptural Foundation

#### *Memorise*

#### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

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.

#### **Psalm 119:97-105**

- 97 Oh how I love your law!  
It is my meditation all the day.
- 98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,  
for it is ever with me.
- 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
for your testimonies are my meditation.
- 100 I understand more than the aged,\*  
for I keep your precepts.
- 101 I hold back my feet from every evil way,  
in order to keep your word.
- 102 I do not turn aside from your rules,  
for you have taught me.
- 103 How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- 104 Through your precepts I get understanding;  
therefore I hate every false way.
- 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

## **Structural Framework**

### **A. The Necessary Word**

*Christianity is Founded upon the Theology of Revelation!*

#### 1. The Theology of Revelation

*The most important world we live in is the unseen world, where the most precious commodity, the ultimate truth, is revealed in the Word of God.*

#### 2. The Centrality of the Word

**Matthew 4:4** *But he answered, "It is written, a "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

**Luke 24:27** *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*

### **B. The Neglected Word**

*The Rise of Biblical Illiteracy (Primary Causes)*

#### 1. Living In An Instant Society

#### 2. Biblical Exhortation Vs Biblical Exposition

#### 3. An Anti-Intellectual Orientation

*To study the Scriptures with our minds, we must engage our hearts and align our wills to the Scriptures.*

#### 4. An Inherent Weakness In Bible Study Groups

Shared Ignorance - exchange of opinions without any informed conclusion to the bible study

Step 1: Study the text beforehand and discuss the fruits of your study

Step 2: Apply the text and share the benefits

#### 5. A Piece-Meal Approach To Scripture

*Don't miss the GOD-Picture and the prevailing themes.*

### **C. The Five Vital Keys to Discipling in the Word of God**

*There is a need for holistic word-centred discipleship today...*

#### 1. Our Orientation

*The Bible is not simply a book of Messages;  
It is essentially a book of Meetings!*

#### 2. Our Goal

*We are not merely acquiring Information;  
instead we are seeking Transformation!*

#### 3. Our Passion

*We are not engaged in a mindless Drudgery.  
Rather, we are enraptured by a magnificent Delight!*

#### 4. Our Priority

## 5. Our Submission

*We build upon the fruits of study of those who came before us. Let's come in humble submission to a Hermeneutical Community to grow together!*

### **D. The Non-Negotiable Word**

*To get into the Word, is to cultivate a DELIGHT in the Word, a DEVOTION to the Word, and a DISCIPLINE in the Word.*

1. A Cultivated Taste: Delight In The Word
2. A Growing Mastery: Discipline In The Word
3. A Deepening Love: Devotion In The Word

### **E. The Necessary Tools**

#### 1. Your Bible

Read directly from your Bible.

#### 2. Your Bible Reading Plan

Use a Bible reading plan that will allow you to systematically read the entire Bible.

#### 3. Your Writing Instrument

Use a pen and mark your Bible. Do not be afraid to 'dirty' your Bible by underlining or circling the word or phrase that God impresses you when you are reading.

#### 4. Your Devotional Journal

Write a journal to capture what is important when God speaks to you. Diligently keep our daily appointment with God and chronicle our journey in this journal.

### **My Suggestion for Journaling**

For the first 5 days of the week, read and record what God has deposited in your heart. On Saturday, read through the entries for the previous 5 days, pick out 4-7 key principles and summarise it. Once a month, go through the entries you made on Saturdays.

## **Shared Application**

**Ezra 7:10** For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

## **Summary Quote**

*A key question to ask in the study of God's Word is – "Am I simply knowing the Word of God or am I seeking to know the God of the Word?"*

## **Specific Actions**

Reflections... My take home lesson from today...

As a result of this session, I commit to do the following:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_