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Description automatically generatedLife Group Bible Study**

**Schoolhouse Praise @ St Paul**

**How to Read the Bible**

September 11, 2022

**OPENING**

*“I tried to read the Bible once. I was really doing great until \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”* Sound familiar? Most of us know we should read our Bible. Most of us know we would be better for it – but often we make excuses, and if we have tried in the past but became overwhelmed, it is more challenging. The challenge is: We will have to go out of our way to become biblically literate. Even so, the difficulty is worth the reward when the Word leads us into a closer relationship with our creator than we knew was possible!

**PRAYER**

Open your time together with a moment of prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation, and ask God to give you wisdom and discernment as you read Scripture and discuss your faith. Trust in him to guide you.

**INTO THE WORD**

Take a few moments to read the Scripture verses below. You can read these passages out loud as a group or silently to yourselves.

*“The Word”*

**Read Hebrews 4:12**

Is the idea of having our innermost thoughts and desires revealed, even just to us, exciting or terrifying? Have you ever had an experience when you were reading the Bible and something became clear to you or you were moved in a powerful way? If you are comfortable, please share!

*“Promises in the Word”*

**Read Psalms 119:49-56 and Romans 10:10-19**

When we take these two passages together we get a sense of joy in the promises of God’s Word and the faith that comes from the Word. It is challenging to welcome the discipline and truth that we find there, but it is necessary to grow. How do you respond to that?

*“The Things that Last”*

**Read Hebrews 12:25-27**

What temporary things are preventing you from spending time in God’s Word? What might you have to give up, or at least cut back, to get to know God better than you do now?

**APPLICATION**

Spending time in God’s Word is his gift to us. Why wouldn’t we want to spend time with someone who knows every single thing about us – and loves us like crazy anyway? If reading the Bible isn’t part of your daily routine, start by challenging yourself to 30 minutes a week and see what God does with that time!