

**Living Grace-Fully: Scripture**  
**January 8, 2017**  
**Lynn Haven UMC**

**Introduction**

If you found a book written by one of your great, great grandparents that detailed every single thing you might ever want to know about the history and character of your family, would you read it? Would you absorb every detail and pass it down to your children so that they could do the same? In a similar fashion, God wants us to understand, apply and share His truth with the next generation. To accomplish this, He gave us the gift of His Word, the Holy Scriptures, or the Bible, which can be thought of as “Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.” It consists of 66 books written through inspiration from the Holy Spirit by 40 people with very different themes, styles and tones. It’s the greatest book ever written. But are we opening it? Are we making the most of this divine tool that equips us to become more effective messengers? There are countless reasons for this gift to be opened daily. This week we will discuss six important ones. After all, a Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn’t.

**Digging Deeper**

Scripture is useful and enables you to live in God’s grace when you...

READ – Underline or highlight key words or phrases in the Bible passage.

- Why is it important to read Scripture every day? When you read your Bible, are you seeking knowledge/wisdom, personal development, to solve problems in your life, or all of the above?

RELATE – Put it into your own words.

- Just picking up the Good Book and reading it isn’t enough though. Relating to the material is critical if you wish to apply it and convey a clear message to anyone who asks you the reason for your faith. (1 Peter 3:15 paraphrased). Finding the translation that speaks to you on a personal level is important. Try out several to see which one you like best. You might even want to have a few on hand. Sometimes looking at the same verse in a different translation can help you gain a deeper understanding of its meaning. What version do you prefer and why?

REFLECT – Ask and answer some questions.

- The Bible is meant to be more than just a source of information. When employed properly, it should become a tool for transformation. For that to happen, we have to think about what it says, ask probing questions of it, and attempt to find the answers to those questions. Do you have a study Bible or favorite Bible commentary that assists you in this way? In what ways have these kinds of tools helped you gain a deeper personal understanding of what you were reading? If you don’t have one, they can be a great resource (along with the internet and various smart phone apps) to help get those questions stirring in your mind.

RECORD – Capture the big idea.

- Keeping a journal of your time spent in His Word helps you to personalize and process what God is saying to you in that moment. It should be a place where God’s Word and your testimony

intersects. Have you recorded any personal revelations from your Bible studies in a journal? Can you share any insights you've gained by doing this?

RESPOND – Personalize the meaning.

- It has been said that once you know better, you should do better. Only as you and I respond in faith and obedience to what we read will we discover how to live “grace-fully” because God blesses us for acting on what we know to be true. Has there been a particular chapter or verse that spoke to your heart so clearly that the Holy Spirit put your feet into motion in response?

REPEAT – Develop a daily habit of Bible reading.

- The only way to build a relationship with someone is to spend time with them. Do you schedule time every day to immerse yourself in His Word? Try starting off with 5 minutes every morning. It just so happens, you can join in with other members of our church who have begun participating in the 5 X 5 X 5 daily Bible reading plan by picking up a copy of the plan in the lobby or by visiting this link: <http://bible.com/r/3k>. Or if you prefer something different, just commit to some sort of plan for this year that gets you reading a little bit every day.

### **Conclusion**

You have been taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. (2 Timothy 3:15-17 NLT)

Now put this study guide aside and go open the gift of God’s Word!