

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE BENEFITS OF READING THE BIBLE

*“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” (John 15:2)*

### Objectives

Knowledge of God’s Will	Understand the benefits of reading the Bible.
Knowledge of God	God is truth, strength, and hope.
Good Works	Read the Bible daily as a habit. Meditate up and memorize God’s word.

### A. The Origin of the Scriptures

2 Timothy 3:16–17 tells us that all Scripture was inspired by God, meaning that its authors did not write it under their own will, but under God’s (2 Pet 1:20–21). Just as Adam became a living being when God breathed into him, God also breathed life into the Scriptures and made the Bible His living word.

### B. The Purposes of the Scriptures

- 1. Gives the Wisdom of Salvation:** Not all people know or believe that they need salvation. The Scriptures’ primary purpose is to show us what it is and why we need it (2 Tim 3:15).
- 2. Gives Us Assurance of Salvation:** As God has promised, we have already received salvation; we need only reach out and grasp it by believing in Him (1 Jn 5:13).
- 3. Provides Warnings:** It serves as a caution sign against sin and the approaching end times.
- 4. Gives Us Spiritual Effectiveness:** It reveals to us God’s will, rebukes us when we have sinned, shows us our errors, and guides us onto the right path (2 Tim 3:16–17).
- 5. Leads Us to Spiritual Growth and Maturity:** We need the food that the Bible offers in order to grow in spirit (1 Pet 2:2–3; Heb 5:12–14).
- 6. Cleanses and Sanctifies Us:** It frees us from sin and sets us apart for God (Eph 5: 25–26).
- 7. Makes Us Examine Ourselves:** Like a mirror, it compels us to come face to face with our sin. (Heb 4:12). Without it, we would never know how to abide by God’s standards.
- 8. Gives Us Spiritual Hope and Strength:** Although we will never reach God’s standards, with His strength we can overcome. We need only learn to rely on Him (Isa 40:29).
- 9. Equips Us for Spiritual Warfare:** It teaches us how to put on the whole armor of God.
- 10. Produces Victory and Success in Our Lives:** When we pursue God’s righteousness by studying His words, He has promised to guide us and take care of all our needs (Mt 6:33).

### Life Application

- 1. Develop a Habit of Daily Bible Reading:** Reading the Scriptures is an exercise in godliness that must be worked into our daily routine. Some suggestions for making this easier are: make a schedule; start small; keep working your way up; and find a buddy.
- 2. Meditate On and Memorize the Scriptures:** It is vital that we meditate on and memorize the Scriptures so that we do not fall prey to the increasing wickedness of the world.
  - a. Meditating on God’s word:** This is a form of worship, so it is important that we first learn to quiet our hearts and focus on God. Once we begin, break the verse into sections, and then pay close attention to each word. It also helps to read it aloud several times.
  - b. Memorization:** A verse should not be considered memorized when we can simply quote it. Colossians 3:16a says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom." Letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom is a process that cannot be finished in a hurry.

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## Lesson 11 Homework Assignment

### The Benefits of Reading the Bible

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (John 15:2):

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1. Who or what is the branch that bears fruit? Why does it need to be pruned?
2. Pick three of the Scriptures' purposes that we learned, and explain each in your own words.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
3. How do you plan to make a habit of reading the Bible daily? If you already have, what are some suggestions you can make to someone who has trouble keeping up the habit?
4. Pick a verse, meditate on it, and memorize it. Record the verse and write what you have learned.