



..... Week 4:

Steeped In Scripture

How Did it Go?

Did you do any of these practices? If so, what effect did it have? If not, what got in the way?

- Did you ask God to bring to mind anyone you may have injured through thought, word, or deed and confess?
- Did you use the Transformed Practices Guide found at fpchouston.org/transformed and/or the [Examen Podcast](#) to examine your life to discover how God has been leading you to confession and healing?
- Did you pray the Alpha prayer points?

Read aloud 2 Timothy 3:12-17.

(Note that “man of God” is best translated “person of God,” since Paul did not use the gender-specific Greek word for “man,” but rather the gender-neutral term for “person” or “human.”)

Head (15–20 minutes) *Observe the text and the author's main points.*

1. For what is Scripture useful? (see verse 16)
2. How do these four uses contribute both to orthodoxy (sound doctrine) and orthopraxy (right practice or conduct)? Which would you assign to each category?
3. What is the goal or desired outcome of Scripture study? (see verse 17)

Heart (15–20 minutes) *Envision how the text - when applied - might transform your inner life in terms of your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.*

1. All Scripture is God-breathed. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit speaking through Scripture to change the way you were thinking, acting, or feeling—either in a specific situation, or over time?

2. Why is it important that sound doctrine (a set of orthodox beliefs) be lived out in practice? Where do you struggle to live out what you think you believe?
3. How does studying Scripture prepare you—and more importantly your heart—for “every good work” (not just a good work)? How might one be unprepared for good work?

Hands (10 minutes) *Apply the text by moving from inward reflection to outward action looking for ways to live the text out in our lives to serve others.*

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

1. Spend time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to guide you in the best way to study His Word during this season of your life.
2. Spend any amount of time, no matter how short, in Scripture. Commit to finding the way to regularly read and study Scripture that works best for you.
3. Try the Spiritual Practice of the week, [Lectio Divina](#) four or more times this week; this more meditative style of reading allows us to be deeply shaped by the God-breathed Scriptures.

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

1. With Scripture in our heads and hearts, we can nurture our own faith and teach others. Look for opportunities to teach others Scripture through words and deeds, whether more formally (e.g. by teaching a Sunday school class), or informally (e.g. by sharing an encouraging verse or passage with a friend this week).
2. The Bible transforms readers by calling us to take our place in the story, teaching us “how then shall we live,” and helping us see how to participate in God's mission. Make concrete plans for a good work God is calling you to in His rescue mission to a broken world. For current FPC serving opportunities, go to [Upcoming Opportunities - FPC Houston](#).

Practice of the Week: [Lectio Divina](#)

- **Lectio Divina** is a meditative reading of the Scriptures that involves listening to what God has to say to us, and letting ourselves be shaped by His inspired word.

Alpha Prayer Points:

Alpha is a listening community designed to help participants explore questions about faith in a non-judging space. The current session will run from October 6th through December 1st.

1. Praise God that we have had 70 people come through ALPHA, 43 of which were non-Christian or Christian-but-searching at this round of ALPHA so far. Please pray that they continue their journey toward God and cross the threshold into faith and relationship with God.
2. Pray for God to provide believers who are willing to build one-on-one relationships with ALPHA participants.
3. Pray for the Christians at ALPHA to have their faith deepened and empowered.