

Bible Journaling Plan

This journaling plan is designed to help Crosspoint Group members as they read through the Bible in 2018. This plan assists in providing a framework for you to study a text each day, understand the meaning, and apply it to your life. The length of time you journal will vary from person to person, day to day. Here are the six steps to the Crosspoint Group journaling plan:

1. What passage stood out?

After you have completed the reading for each day, start by identifying the passage that stuck out to you the most. This may be one specific verse, a consecutive set of verses, or multiple verses from different chapters. Whatever stood out most, write it down! This will differ from person to person, but God is going to speak differently to different people while reading the Scriptures. Take note of what he is showing you on a particular day.

2. What does the passage mean?

Once you have identified the passage(s) that stood out, the next important step is to understand what the text means. When reading the Bible, you want to ensure you are understanding what the text says in the original context to the original recipients of the writing. This step will help you identify the truth of a passage. You may not know all the answers to this step on your own. This is where a good study bible or commentary can come in handy.

3. What does the passage show about God?

At this step, your reading each day will begin to get more practical. After understanding what the text means, ask this simple question: what does this passage show me about God? What does it reveal about his character, his nature, or a truth about him that I need to know deep in my heart?

4. How does the passage relate to me?

This next step begins to take your reading to a very practical level. After you know the meaning of the text and know what it teaches about God, now you want to ask another simple question: based off of what is true about this passage, how does it relate to my life? For a certain day's reading, you may read about the grace of God. How does that topic relate to you? Are you struggling in sin? Are you feeling unworthy of God's love? This is where you would relate the passage to what you are feeling and experiencing personally.

5. How do I live out this truth?

The fifth part of the journaling plan is critically important! At this point, you want to walk away with a very specific understanding of how you are going to live out the truth of the text you read today. You know the meaning, you understand what it teaches you about God, and also how it relates to you personally. Now the question becomes, so what? What am I going to do in response? This can be very practical or more in depth. Your application will vary from day to day. Somedays you may need to repent and seek forgiveness from someone. Other days, the next step may be to simply spend time thanking God for something. Whatever the next step, this is where you want to note how you will apply what God has shown you in the reading that day.

6. How should I pray about what I have read?

Lastly, you want to end by writing down a few things you will pray about. This is where the reading of the Scriptures becomes a "conversation." God has spoken to you, now you respond in prayer. Based off everything to this point, make some notes on how you need to pray and respond to the Lord. This may be a time of praise, thanksgiving, or asking for his help in a certain area of life. Whatever it is, continue the conversation that God has begun.