DEVOTE
Kendal Phelps

When it comes to reading the Bible are you excited to read it or do you put it off? How we view scripture shapes how we answer this question. If we see the Bible as just a boring book, then most likely we won't be excited to open it and dive in. If we see scriptures as God's true word that tells one big story, it becomes more than a book. Instead, God's word becomes our source of truth in a life full of unknowns. If we see that the Bible is the story of how God has moved throughout time in order to reveal who He is and what He has done, then we will approach it differently.

The Bible engages us with the Lord

Do you pass notes to your friends or text in class? My friends and I would do it all the time. Instead of focusing in class and learning about quadratic formulas (what are those anyway?!?), I would have my desk covered in markers writing my friends the most artistic and descriptive letters about how my day at school was going. My friends would do the same and then we would swap letters in the hallway. When I would read my friends' letters, I would be so excited to see what they had to say. I was engaged in their story because they were my friends. I wanted to read about their day and their lives. We can be excited about reading the Bible if have a relationship with the Lord. God loves us so much he wants us to hear all he has to say. It is our exciting opportunity to engage with him as the Holy Spirit opens up our eyes to grow in a relationship with him.

The Bible helps us to learn about the Lord

When we take the time to sit down and read the Bible then we learn about who the Lord is. We learn about his power, his mercy, his love for us, and how he saved us. We see him move throughout time in order to fulfill his plan and promises. Remember those letters I got from my friends? As I read them, I learned about what made them happy and what made them upset. I got to see their personalities through the letters. When we read scripture, we see what makes the Lord happy and what upsets him. It is our chance to see his characteristics on every page. We can know exactly who God is, but it can't happen if we don't spend time in his true word. Even if the part you are reading is difficult to understand, the Spirit of God will use it over time in so many ways!

The Bible helps us to know who we are

By learning who God is in his perfect scriptures, we learn our true identity. Because he is our creator, he knows why we were made and what we were made to do! The world loves to try and tell us who we are. You, your family, your friends, society, and random strangers are always trying to give you a certain identity. Those titles and ideas can at times be helpful, but they can also be false and damaging. How do we know which identity is true and good? Well, who knows us better than the one who made us? The only identity that matters is the one that the Lord places on you. The Bible tells us how God sees us. For those who believe in the Lord, we have the identity of a "*chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession…*" (1 Peter 2:9) That's a high standing identity! The more we read scriptures, the more we will see

ourselves as God sees us! Because of Jesus, we can be fully known AND fully loved.

It may take time to have absolute joy for reading the Bible, and even then, there may be some days when you want to read and some days you don't. That's okay! However, as believers we are called to be disciplined in reading the Bible. Only good will come as we continue to submit our entire lives to God's true word. On those days when you're not feeling up to diving into scripture, challenge yourself to remember all the good that awaits within. Set aside just at least 10-15 minutes in your day to sit down and enjoy reading all God has to say. Who knows what could happen?

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."
— 2 Timothy 3:16-17 —