

ZACH MABRY

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# PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

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## GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOU

- ▶ Have you ever thought, “I just need a word from God”? or “I just want God to speak to me”?
- ▶ Good news: He has
- ▶ The Creator of the universe is speaking to you today in His Word – the Bible

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## BUT HOW DO I STUDY?

- ▶ The goal in studying the Bible is to be more like Jesus.
- ▶ **Ask God to teach you and read it like any other book.**
- ▶ Ask questions of the text and dig for the answers.
  - ▶ What does this tell me about God?
  - ▶ What does this tell me about me?
  - ▶ How should I respond?

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## THE OLD TESTAMENT IS ALL ABOUT JESUS...

- ▶ Luke 24:25-27 "And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."

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## IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS... BUT HOW?

- ▶ The Old Testament was pointing towards the salvation that Jesus Christ would bring to the world (both Jews and Gentiles) and this would be accomplished by His death, burial, and resurrection.
- ▶ The Curse and the Promise
  - ▶ Genesis 3:15 - God promises that He will send a Savior to crush the serpent.
  - ▶ This provides a context for the whole Old Testament.

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## 2 EXAMPLES

- ▶ Rahab in Jericho
  - ▶ God was giving them the promised land, executing judgment against sin and idolatry, opening the way for a family of Gentiles who put their faith in Him.
- ▶ Isaiah 53
  - ▶ The suffering servant who takes the punishment of our sin defeating it through His death and resurrection.

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## GENRE: PAY ATTENTION TO THE TYPE OF WRITING

- ▶ Narrative: much of the OT; Gospels and Acts
- ▶ Poetry: heavy on figurative language
- ▶ Discourse: teaching and instruction
- ▶ Prophecy: can have all 3
- ▶ Learn the difference between **Description** and **Prescription**

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## PRACTICAL STEPS

- ▶ Read all the Bible all the time.
- ▶ Study one book at a time in depth.

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## ALL THE BIBLE ALL THE TIME

- ▶ Get on a good Bible reading plan and stick to it.
- ▶ Read the Bible all the way through every year (at least).
  - ▶ You can read the whole Bible out loud in about 71 hours (that's less than 12 minutes every day).
- ▶ Don't get hung up if you missed something, you be back this way again next year.

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## STUDY ONE BOOK IN DEPTH

- ▶ Get a Bible (preferably a study Bible with introductions to each book), a notebook, and a pen.
- ▶ Read through the whole thing several times to get a good bird's eye view. (Remember, you're not in a hurry.)
- ▶ Narrative: go chapter by chapter follow the themes.
- ▶ Discourse: go paragraph by paragraph; and verse by verse.

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## STUDY ONE BOOK IN DEPTH

- ▶ Pick a New Testament book.
- ▶ Spend a week and read through the whole book every day in one sitting and make notes on what you're learning.
- ▶ Starting week 2 study the same paragraph every morning all week and write out what you're learning and how you should respond. Then go to the next paragraph the next week.
- ▶ Talk with your pastor or student pastor about what you're learning or pick up a good commentary, just to make sure you're on the right track.
- ▶ Don't stop.

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## HELPFUL HINTS

- ▶ Context, Context, Context
- ▶ Ask questions of the text.
- ▶ Pay attention to every word,
  - ▶ Connecting words: therefore, on account of, because of, since
  - ▶ And verbs: tense, active or passive, commands

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## EVERY WORD MATTERS

- ▶ Jesus made a huge point proving the resurrection from the dead on the tense used in Exodus 3.
- ▶ Luke 20:37 "But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him."
- ▶ Exodus 3:6 And he said, "**I am** the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

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## COLOSSIANS 1:24-29

- ▶ "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me."