LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS 101

READING THE WORD OF GOD

PSALM 1:1–3

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

THE PURPOSE OF READING GOD'S WORD

TO <u>KNOW</u> GOD

- John 10:27-30 – *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me*
- Isaiah 30:21 – *Your ears will hear a word behind you, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right or to the left*

THE FOUNDATIONS OF READING GOD'S WORD

THE WORD <u>NOURISHES</u> US

- *I am frail and fragile, and I do well never to forget it.* (Christopher Ash)
- Jeremiah 15:16 – *Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.*

THE WORD <u>CUTS</u> US

- Hebrews 4:12-13 – *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*
- Psalm 40:6 – *In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear.*

THE WORD <u>MOLDS</u> US

- *The purpose of all methods of Bible intake is obedience to what God says and the development of Christlikeness.* (Don Whitney)
- Psalm 19:7- *The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple*

THE WORD MATURES US

- *The one indispensable requirement for producing godly, mature Christians is godly, mature Christians.* (Kevin DeYoung)
- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 – *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 complete, equipped for every good work.*
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THE WORD SUSTAINS US

- Matthew 4:4 – *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

TRY TO AVOID

READING MERELY AS DUTY

READING MERELY FOR KNOWLEDGE

A SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR READING GOD'S WORD

If God has committed himself to changing our lives, to sanctifying us, then wisdom—not to mention amazed gratitude—dictates that we should be committed to that too. Otherwise God's will and my will are in competition with each other. (Sinclair Ferguson)

1. SET ASIDE TIME

- Pick a...
  - Path (time, place, etc...)
  - Plan

2. PRAY

- For...
  - Humility
  - Clarity
  - Understanding
  - Delight
  - Obedience

3. READ

4. ASK

- What does the text say?
  - Key themes, Repeated words, Illustrations?
  - About who God is?

About the nature/character of people?

- What does the text mean?
  What would it have meant when it was received?
  What does it mean for me today?

- What is jumping out to me?
  What grabs your attention?

5. MAKE SPACE

- To reread
- To look further into verses or concepts
- For silence

6. DISCERN WHAT THE LORD WOULD HAVE YOU CONTINUE MEDITATING ON

7. HOLD FAST AND ENJOY

- Philippians 2:16
- Psalm 119
- Choose the "necessary" thing. (Luke 10:41-42)

8. THANK GOD

TWO HELPFUL PARAMETERS

1. THE METANARRATIVE OF SCRIPTURE

- Creation
- Fall
- Redemption
- Restoration

2. THE GENRES OF SCRIPTURE

- The Pentateuch
- The Historical
- Wisdom Literature
- Prophecy
- Gospel
- Epistles

CONTEXT WORKSHEET

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE BOOK?

WHEN WAS THE BOOK WRITTEN (DATE)?

WHAT IS THE BOOK'S LITERARY TYPE (GENRE)?

1. Law _____
2. History _____
3. Wisdom _____
4. Poetry _____
5. Epistle _____
6. Prophecy _____
7. Gospel _____

WHO WROTE THE BOOK (AUTHOR)?

Name:	What are some life facts about the author? Age? Location? Profession?	If the *name* of the author is unknown, what is known about him/her?

TO WHOM WAS THE BOOK BEING WRITTEN (AUDIENCE)?

Who was the target audience (i.e. the Israelite nation, group, etc.)?	What are some characteristics about the audience's behavior, culture, or history (i.e. rebellious/faithful/weary, cultural values, historical surrounding)?

FOR WHAT PURPOSE WAS THE BOOK BEING WRITTEN (REASON)?

What are some things that the author is hoping that the people reading this book understand? Why does he feel the need to write to them? Justify your answer using examples from this book.

READING THE WORD

DAY	PASSAGE	WHAT DOES IT SAY?	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHAT AM I MEDITATING ON?
1				
2				
3				

READING THE WORD

DAY	PASSAGE	WHAT DOES IT SAY?	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHAT AM I MEDITATING ON?
4				
5				
6				

READING THE WORD

DAY	PASSAGE	WHAT DOES IT SAY?	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHAT AM I MEDITATING ON?
7				
8				
9				

READING THE WORD

DAY	PASSAGE	WHAT DOES IT SAY?	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHAT AM I MEDITATING ON?
10				
11				
12				

READING THE WORD

DAY	PASSAGE	WHAT DOES IT SAY?	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHAT AM I MEDITATING ON?
13				
14				
15				

READING THE WORD

DAY	PASSAGE	WHAT DOES IT SAY?	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHAT AM I MEDITATING ON?
16				
17				
18				

READING THE WORD

DAY	PASSAGE	WHAT DOES IT SAY?	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHAT AM I MEDITATING ON?
19				
20				
21				