

3. Hunger for the Word

The truth is not always easy for me to hear. Sometimes it pierces me and convicts me. Sometimes I wish I could evade it. And then I am reminded that it was sent to heal me. Often it encourages me and heartens me. Sometimes it restores me when nothing else can do so. It confronts me with paradoxes of revelation which intrigue me and challenge me. It exposes the secular illusions of the day and reveals the destructive ends to which they lead. It deals honestly with uncomfortable concepts and opposes the strongholds of tradition, correcting them with the authority of God.

I have learned to appreciate the Bible most because it brings me face to face with my God! That is the reason for Scripture. It is to reveal God to us. The relationship is so real and personal that it seems to be a face to face encounter. My heavenly Father becomes more real and close than any earthly father. I can all but see my Lord and Savior standing beside me and talking to me as I read his words in the gospels. Sometimes the words of Scripture become so vivid and luminous that I feel like kneeling or even falling on my face before the majesty of God. No other book has such power to transport me beyond earth to heavenly places.

If the body of Christ in this land saw the Bible in that light, and listened attentively and eagerly to what it was saying, and learned how to conduct their lives according to the wisdom of this Word, do you think our world would be in the condition that it is today? I am sure your answer is "No." We desperately need the wisdom of the Word to instruct us how to live. We need to hunger deeply for the Word of God.

- Ray C. Stedman, February 5, 1989

Hungering for the Word Daily Quiet Times

Date	Week 3
4-Jun	Colossians 3:16
5-Jun	1 Peter 2:1-2
6-Jun	Jeremiah 15:16
7-Jun	Deuteronomy 8:3
8-Jun	Hebrews 4:11-12
9-Jun	Psalms 119:161-163
10-Jun	Isaiah 66:2

Hunger for the Word

PART 1

Passage(s) to Study

A passionate hunger for the truth of God's Word is central to genuine awakening. One scholar refers to this as "a jealous concern for the truth." Every significant awakening in history has resulted in a revival of God's Word. People become consumed with a desire to read the Word, understand the Word, and live the Word. In your own words describe how important a hunger for God's word is to your life and what you think it looks like.

Read: Read 1 Peter 1:22-2:3 and write down 5-10 observations that you make about the Word of God from this section. How might knowing and meditating on the role of God's Word in your salvation and growth in your walk with Christ change your view of the value of hungering for God's Word?

PART 2

Questions to Ponder

[Q] What does Hebrews 5:11-6:1 reveal about the fruit from a lack of hunger for God's word and its consequences in a believer's life?

[Q] According to the following verses what types of things does God's Word produce in the life of a believer? What are the thoughts that stick out to you from these verses?

Read: John 8:31-32, 17:17-19; Ephesians 4:15

[Q] What does letting the word of Christ dwell in you richly look like? (Col. 3:16) Summarize this verse in your own words.

For further study: Read through Psalms 119 or one of the smaller sections of the chapter and take note of the writer's desire for God, hunger for His Word, and for God's will to be done. Take note of the constant repetition of the writer's hunger for God's Word. What do you think fuels this hungering for God's Word?

PART 3

Making it Stick

Write out 1-2 of the main things that God impressed upon you this week from your time reading the daily devotions on hungering for the Word of God.

May we cry out to God, "Direct my footsteps according to your words; let no sin rule over me" Ps. 119:133. *Pray for a fresh, all-consuming hunger for God's Word.*

Write out in your own words a prayer to God asking him for a heart that hungers for His Word for a lifetime. A sample has been provided below:

Prayer: *O God, forgive us if our souls are easily satisfied and we have lost the hunger to hear Your Word. Please create in me a hunger for Your Word. Forgive me for so often taking it for granted. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Recommended resources:

The Topical Memory System **by The Navigators, NavPress**

According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible **by Graeme Goldsworthy**