

STEP OF DAN

WEEK 5

DAN - 77

"Judge"

THE WEAKNESS WE ARE STRENGTHENING

Many Christians do not read the Bible regularly. This has caused great **weakness** in the Body of Christ.

FOCUS

Establishing a regular Bible-reading Habit.

KEY VERSE

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."
(2 Timothy 3:16)*

KEY POINTS

- A regular Bible Habit is the 3rd NON-NEGOTIABLE habit of a believer.
- God's Word governs our lives.
- God's Word is FOOD for our soul. We must be constantly feeding our soul, or we will become spiritually weak.
- 2 Timothy 3:16: *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*

The Step of Dan is about establishing a strong Habit of Bible-reading in a believer's life. God speaks back to us primarily through His Word.

ICE BREAKER

Word Pictures

GIVE 3 - 4 people in the group a piece of paper. They should each write a funny or unusual sentence at the top of their paper.

Then, each person hands their piece of paper to the person on their left. Now everyone will have a new piece of paper.

The individuals now holding the papers should draw pictures that represent the already written sentence to them. Next, they should fold the paper over so the original sentence is hidden and only the new picture can be seen.

They pass the papers to the left again. This third person will write out a sentence that describes the picture to them and then fold the paper over so the second person's picture is what is hidden now and only the sentence written by the third person can be seen.

Again, pass to the left. The game alternates between people drawing and writing out sentences of what they see as they continue passing each paper to the left.

The icebreaker ends when each person receives their original paper. Let everyone share their original sentence and the final sentence or picture.

This game is a variation on the old party game "Operator" or "Rumor Mill."

GROUP DISCUSSION

1.) *During the game we just played, what would be the only way to ensure the final sentence matched the original sentence?*

The only real way to make *sure* the final sentence matches the original sentence is to show the other players the original sentence and ask them to copy it!

Once we lose access to an original message, it invariably gets garbled over time as people add their own flavor to it, forget some of the original words and try to fill them in themselves, or even make something up that sounds better to their ears.

This is what happens in cultures too. ***Once people lose access to the original Word of God, we as individuals, and as a society together, begin to drift pretty quickly.*** We have seen this patten repeat many times over the ages.

2.) **READ** the following passages:

Judges 17:6 – “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.”

Judges 21:25 – “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.”

Deuteronomy 12:8 – “You are not to do as we do here today, everyone doing as they see fit.”

Proverbs 14:12 – “There is a way that seems right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.”

In Ancient Israel, there were times when they not only didn’t have a king, but they were not governing themselves with the Word of God. As Proverbs 14:12 says, this leads to death.

3.) *Can you share a time that you or someone you know did not follow the principles of the Bible and it cost them?*

Many people want to hear from God.

Many people often also voice a frustration with not “hearing Him” when they pray. They complain that they’ve prayed and prayed and haven’t gotten answers to questions or their requests fulfilled.

This inevitably leads to some believers becoming frustrated with their prayer lives. Yet, what if we are not understanding certain principles of how God communicates?

4.) *In your experience, has God spoken to you more clearly during prayer or through Bible reading?*

While God does speak to us sometimes directly through prayer, most often prayer is about us sharing our heart with Him. Speaking to Him. When He does speak back to us, it is almost always in the form of a gentle whisper which takes years of spiritual practice and discipline to discern.

He also speaks to us through other believers in fellowship, **but He primarily speaks to us through the Bible.** *The Bible is the way He most often speaks back to us.*

People often complain that they want to hear from God, they want to hear what He has to say, but they don’t want to spend time reading what He has already spoken!

5.) **For Silent Consideration:** Why would God spend time speaking to someone through prayer who doesn't care to read what He's already said?

Regular Bible study is the 3rd non-negotiable habit every believer must do to seek God well.

In God's Temple, the Golden Table of Showbread symbolized the Word of God. *Bread is always a symbol for "teaching" or "God's Word" in Scripture.*

Because the Table of Showbread is one of the three fixtures that lay in the approach to God's presence, it is confirmed that God's Word is one of the three essential habits.

The Bible says there were twelve loaves of bread presented on the table, all prepared without yeast. Twelve is the number of Godly government, so this shows that **God's Word shall govern our lives**. In Scripture, yeast is a symbol for sinful pride which "puffs up," **so we should always approach God's Word with humility and without adding to it.**

In Creation, trees, which are God's symbols for believers, need sunlight to survive and grow just as much as they need water and soil. **Light is always a symbol for truth.** And the sun is a symbol for Christ, the Son of God. So, **sunlight represents the truth of Christ**, or the truth of God's Word.

Just as a person cannot walk through a pitch-black room without stumbling over furniture, so can we not walk through life without the light of truth. We need truth to navigate life without getting hurt.

Therefore, Bible-reading is essential!

6.) *What are some of the reasons you think Christians don't read the Bible more? What are our answers to those obstacles?*

The FIFTH Step in the Path 2 Strength is the **STEP OF DAN.**

The name of Dan means "Judge," referring to a judge over disputes, or it can also simply mean "a leader", i.e., a governing leader.

Therefore, the Step of Dan is about placing God's Word as the judge and leader over our lives.

Diagnosing Ourselves

Prayer is like spiritual breathing. If we don't breathe, we pretty quickly begin to *suffocate*. A feeling that is very overwhelming.

Therefore, if a believer is feeling overwhelmed – like they are spiritually *suffocating* – it means they need to pray, yet feeling spiritually overwhelmed is not the same thing as feeling spiritually *weak*.

Prayer by itself is not enough. We *must* breathe constantly, but if all we do in life is breathe – **if we never eat** – we will grow *weak*. The Bible is like our spiritual food, so we must partake of it regularly to remain strong.

Whenever a Christian is feeling spiritually weak, it means they need to be reading MORE of the Bible than they currently are.

Therefore, if a believer is feeling overwhelmed, like they are suffocating, it means they need to pray, but if they feel weak, they need to read the Word.

The Step of Dan is about establishing a strong Habit of Bible-reading in a believer's life. God speaks back to us primarily through His Word.

ACTION STEPS & HOMEWORK

Action Steps

COMMIT to regular, daily Bible reading FIRST thing every morning in conjunction with prayer time.

If you don't know *where* to start, we have included a Bible-Reading Plan for you at the end of this book.

Homework

MEMORIZE 2 Timothy 3:16

GROUP PRAYER NEEDS
