

PRACTICE 7

STUDY

faithbit challenge
October 17 & 18



“Your word is a lamp
to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

It is appropriate that on this Reformation Weekend, when we celebrate our Lutheran heritage, that our PRACTICE 7 focus is STUDY. Martin Luther was first and foremost a Bible teacher. He loved scripture and wanted everyone to have access to reading it. So much in fact, that he translated the Bible into German in order that all people, not just priests and the wealthy, could read it.

Luther liked to say, “Scripture is the manger in which the (Christ) child is laid.” What he meant is that the Bible is not so much about words on a page; it is a place where we meet Jesus! We read the Bible, not primarily as a handbook for life, but rather as an encounter with the living Christ. As the Gospel writer John wrote, “These things are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31)

Lutherans believe that within the pages of scripture, God has spoken and continues to speak to us. The community of faith called the church, has agreed that God is speaking to us today through the Bible and proclaimed word. The Bible looks for God, who is active and out in our world. Lutheran Christians believe that the story of God’s steadfast love and mercy in Jesus is the heart and center of what the Scriptures have to say.

BUT HOW DO I READ THE BIBLE?

The Lutheran Book of Faith initiative offers these four questions to help you.....

Devotional Reading

What scares, confuses, or challenges me in this text?

What delights me in this text?

What stories or memories does this text stir in me?

What is God up to in this text?

Historical Reading

Who wrote this passage?

Why was this text written?

Where was this text written, and what do we know about that part of the ancient world?

How is this text similar to other ancient stories?

When was this text written and what do we know about that time in history?

Literary Reading

What is the plot?

Who are the characters?

What is the theme of this passage?

What is the setting for this passage?

Lutheran Theological Reading

In what ways does this text point to or lead us to Christ?

Can other passages in the Bible help us understand or interpret this passage?

What is the plain meaning of this text?

Is the interpretation we are commending accessible to everyone?

Prayer Litany

Leader: Lord, through the week at school and work

Participants: **Let the word of Christ dwell in us**

Lord, as we come in and as we go out

Let the word of Christ dwell in us

Lord, as we eat and as we sleep

Let the word of Christ dwell in us

Lord, with our friends and with our family

Let the word of Christ dwell in us

Lord, as we praise and glorify you

Let the word of Christ dwell in us

Lord, in all we say and do

Let the word of Christ dwell in us

In your name we pray, Amen.

NEVER TOO OLD

The saying goes: “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks,” but when it comes to Scripture we’re never too old to stop learning! The word of Christ speaks to us in new ways every time we open the Book and our hearts to receive it!

LEARN THE NAMES AND ORDER OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

A clever and fun idea on how to help you and (your kids) learn the Books of the Bible:



THERE’S AN APP FOR THAT!



Check out “Where’s the APP for that?” Assembled by Sue Christiaansen, Director of Christian Education. Copies are available at the Welcome Desk and Information Center.

HOW TO HELP CHILDREN LEARN BIBLE STORIES

1. Read from a Children’s Bible Story like the Spark Bible.
2. Turn off the TV and have your family act out familiar Bible stories. Grab some props from around the house! Read the story, act and laugh until your sides hurt!
3. Create a reading corner. Maybe even throw some old sheets over a table and pretend you are in hiding like the early Christians – don’t forget your flashlight!
4. Movie Night: Show Veggie Tale DVD’s or other Bible story DVD’s. Check out our library.

TAKE A FEW MINUTES A DAY

Monthly Devotional Booklets available at church: [The Word in Season](#) and [Christ in our Home](#).

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR CHURCH - THE ELCA

Subscribe to or pick up THE LUTHERAN magazine. Timely, topical, informative – the Lutheran shares articles of interest that both challenge and inspire. A limited number of copies are available at church. Contact Beth Dorsey in the office if you are interested in having a subscription mailed to your home.

ELECTRONIC DEVOTIONS



<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/>

These devotions are emailed to you each day by the Lutheran Seminary in St. Paul, MN. They appear in your inbox every day and take only a few minutes to read.



<http://d365.org/>

This is a very approachable daily step-by-step devotion that includes: pause, listen, think, pray and go!

Although written for students, we think adults will like it too! It is published by Passport, a student ministry organization focused on creating meaningful resources for students. Sponsored by Youth Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Episcopal Church and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.



Center for
Action and
Contemplation

Father Richard Rohr - www.cac.org/sign-up

These beautiful meditations from this Franciscan Priest focus on contemplative spirituality.



www.youversion.com

Now the Bible is an app

God is near, and so is His Word. As you wake up. While you wait. When you meet a friend. Before you go to sleep. When the Bible is always with you, it becomes a part of your daily life.