

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, July 8, 2018)

Share:

If you're not yet at the point of enjoying reading the Bible, it may not be the best thing to dive into a reading plan that goes from Genesis to Revelation. Consider what you need spiritually at this time in your life or would like to understand better.

- Are you interested in or challenged by questions related to origins? *Study Genesis.*
- Do you wonder “what’s up” with all of those Old Testament laws? *Study Leviticus (with a really good study guide...)*
- Are you interested in the similarities and differences between the gospels? *Read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.*
- Do you need encouragement for finding joy? *Read Philipians.*

You get the picture. Don't force yourself to read the Bible in its entirety when you're just getting going. Once you learn to enjoy parts, you'll learn to enjoy the whole.

Natasha Crane, How to Really Like Reading the Bible, Blog, 1/6/2014

Read these words from a hymn today:

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
When I feel afraid,
Think I've lost my way,
Still you're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Read this scripture from worship: Genesis 4:1-19 (NRSV)

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, 'I have produced a man with the help of the LORD.' Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. The LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do

not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.'

Cain said to his brother Abel, 'Let us go out to the field.' And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' He said, 'I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?' And the LORD said, 'What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.' Cain said to the LORD, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear! Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.' Then the LORD said to him, 'Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.' And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch; and he built a city, and named it Enoch after his son Enoch.

Talk together, responding to these questions:

When did you first hear the story of Adam and Eve? What do you remember about it?

What questions pop into your mind when you read a story from the Bible? Do Bible stories always make sense to you?

What would it mean to you if some of the stories in the Bible were not completely based on provable, historical facts?

What would it mean if you were to take every story from the Bible as historical fact?

How have we changed the practice of reading the Bible in today's world?

Pray together:

Gracious God, you make us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You feed us with the bread of life and renew us for your service. We give ourselves to you and ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom. May our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bless one another:

Take each person's hand and say. "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's call is within you. Be kind to yourself and others this week as a child of God."