

Week 2

## **PRACTICAL Teaching**

Westside Church of Christ

Pastor Darryl Seip

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020



## **5 Things God uses to Grow Your Faith**

Private Disciplines  
Practical Teaching  
Personal Ministry  
Providential Relationships  
Pivotal Circumstances

[24] "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. [25] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

[26] But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. [27] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

[28] When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, [29] because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

**Matthew 7:24-29 (NIV)**

**In most people there is large gap between KNOWING and DOING.**

**We are usually OVER-EDUCATED and UNDER-APPLICATED**

**You have to take responsibility for your own growth**

**Your faith won't get stronger if you are only getting fed on a Sunday**

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**Matthew 28:18-20 (New Living Translation)**

37 Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away<sup>[h]</sup>—all who have been called by the Lord our God." 40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

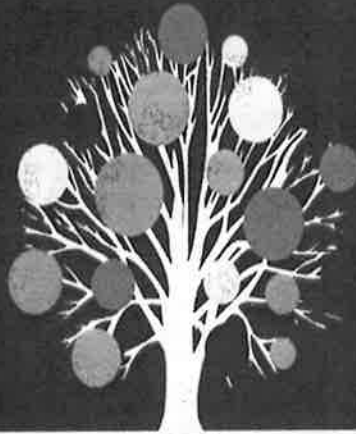
41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

**Acts 2:37-41 (NLT)**

**...what should you do?**



**Bible Study Booklet**  
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**



**five things**  
**God uses to**  
**GROW**  
**your faith**

**FEBRUARY**

**2020**

**WEEK TWO**

**Practical Teaching**

## Overview Week 2

*The "5 Things" aren't in any list anywhere in the Bible but as you listen to people's stories, these 5 things keep coming up over and over again as the things God uses to grow our faith.*

Jesus taught not just for information but for application. For some people there is a lack of information. There is a general ignorance of what the Bible says.

One journalist in America received a call from another journalist who knew he was a Christian. He asked the Christian journalist for contact information. He heard someone in a speech quote from the book of Ephesians. As it was in a Christian context, the other journalist thought the Christian might know the contact details of the author of the book of Ephesians.. (true story)

The Apostle Paul has been dead for 2000 years and his phone is disconnected.

Sometimes the roadblock to growth is simply a lack of knowledge of what the Bible says. Ignorance, misunderstanding, or not being familiar with the Bible is a problem.

But another missing element in a lot of lives is the application of what the Bible says. Too often people know it but don't do it. Many times people can quote the Bible but haven't done anything about actually incorporating it into their lives.

The times that people grow in the faith the most is when they are exposed to an approach that says something like this....

"Here's what the Bible says. Here's what it means.

Here's what to do. Here's how to do it.

What are you going to do about it?"

It can be in a sermon or in a book. It can be in a Bible study group or a Conference. The main thing is that you get exposed to Practical Teaching. It is not just restating the facts and regurgitating the knowledge. It is genuine applied instruction that inspires us to act on what the Bible says. It is teaching that changes the way we think, the way we feel, the way we act and react and puts the Bible into practice.



## THE 5 Things Again...

Have you had any further thoughts on any of the 5 things?

How did you go this week on Private Disciplines?

<b>Week 1</b>	Private Disciplines (Privately I took the time to...)
<b>Week 2</b>	Practical Teaching (I heard the Bible applied..)
<b>Week 3</b>	Personal Ministry (I got involved in...)
<b>Week 4</b>	Providential Relationships (I met someone..)
<b>Week 5</b>	Pivotal Circumstances (This happened..)

## Practical Teaching

We may talk about the Bible or use the Bible. But the response of people to the Bible needs to be more than just intellectual comprehension.

In the book of Nehemiah, the Jewish people returned to Jerusalem from being in exile. The rebuilding of the wall around the city had brought with it a sense of security and unity that the people hadn't experienced for a long time. For years, as a scattered people, the Jews had no opportunity to gather with their brothers and sisters and they had no access to the Scriptures.

But after the work was complete Ezra took the book of God's Law and read it before the gathered people.

Read Nehemiah 8:1-8

This act of not just reading but interpreting, clarifying simplifying and explaining the book had great impact.

**Bill Mills**

Now read Nehemiah 8:9-10

It's probably better to be met with tears than blank looks. The Holy Spirit obviously was powerfully at work.

But the leaders didn't want the people to stay in that place figuratively and wallow in a sea of remorse and regret.

They had experienced a famine from hearing the Word of God and now it was time to feast on it. The joy of the Lord would be their strength.

If we could capture this attitude of hunger for God's Word and openness and obedience it would lead to massive transformation in our own

lives.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. There are 4 aspects mentioned of the purpose of the Scriptures that can be grouped into 2 different sorts of pairings.

2 are negative and 2 are positive. 2 have to do with thinking and 2 have to do with behaviour. Which words refer to which purposes, do you think?

If the Bible has those varying purposes, are you aware of when the Bible is disturbing, comforting or challenging? Which ones are easier to accept?

Read Matthew 7:24-28 Why do you think Jesus concluded his sermon on the Mount with this teaching? What does it say about his view of his own teaching?

Can you think of a time when obeying the Bible actually prepared you well for an oncoming storm?

What about the opposite where a difficult time you went through could have been avoided if you did?

Can you think of times when hearing the Bible read and applied has helped you grow spiritually?

What can we do to better allow God to work through the avenue of practical teaching to build our faith?

Truth is like a tin of paint. It doesn't do anybody any good unless it is applied!

Whether its things we think about God, things we believe about ourselves, the ways we behave or the ways we respond, the Bible has directions for us to follow.

Some are harder than others. Giving, forgiving, loving etc. What do you observe in others that are the most difficult truths of the Bible to believe and follow ?

What about for you?

This week look for areas where you can apply the Bible to you life.

How are your James S.O.A.P. Readings going?