



# SERMON NOTES

## THE WALK

FIVE ESSENTIAL PRACTICES  
OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

*Psalm 119:103-105*

Week 2 (February 28):  
“Study: A Living  
Word”

### I. General Revelation

- A. When God is revealed through \_\_\_\_\_, we are reminded of God’s greatness and glory.
- B. Jesus himself used many metaphors from nature: mustard seeds, wheat, weeds, sheep, fig trees and yeast, all figure in parables describing the \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. We can learn a lot about God through the life experiences of other people, if we are only willing to \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. Special Revelation

- A. We are grateful that Jesus promised that “the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and will \_\_\_\_\_ you of everything I told you” (John 14:26).
- B. It’s most instructive to see how \_\_\_\_\_ read Scripture. He not only read it, he memorized it, prayed it, and lived it.
- C. One way to read Scripture is by lectio divina, Latin for \_\_\_\_\_. This slow and meditative method, allows you to focus on a word, idea or phrase that speaks to you.

### III. Jesus

- A. We say that Jesus is the Incarnation or the Word made \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. When God wanted to speak to the human race so that we would come to understand who God is, God did not send a book, God sent a \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. To more fully understand the Scriptures, we aren’t meant to be lone rangers, but we grow from sharing in \_\_\_\_\_, most often in a small group.

### **Challenge:**

Find a way to read the Bible that fits with your learning style. Over the remaining weeks of Lent, choose one of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) to read the entire way through.

### ***Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message***

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION

During Lent, we are focusing on the five essential practices of the Christian life highlighted in Adam Hamilton's book, *The Walk*: worship, study, serve, give and share. This week, we explored "study," learning and growing from the way God is revealed in nature, art, and life, as well as in the Scripture. This is a practice of training ourselves to listen for God's voice so we can better follow our Good Shepherd.

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### Monday: Luke 10:38-42

"Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things," Jesus says. Martha is distracted by her role as hostess. Are you distracted and worried on this Monday? We are told that Mary has "chosen the better part," as she sits at Jesus's feet to listen. Jesus says "only one thing" is necessary or *The Message* words it "one thing only is essential." If you are worried and distracted today, can you ask God to help you listen when God speaks to you? What do you think is the one essential thing you need to hear?

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### Tuesday: James 1:2-5

Though he asks us to see our trials as occasions "for joy," James was not naïve, nor does he ask us to see the world through rose-colored glasses. In this year of Pandemic, perhaps you have faced many trials and worries. And yet, we read in vs. 5, that God gives wisdom generously to all who ask for it. Can you trust that God is able to grow you in wisdom if you ask for it? How does this trust help you to look at the challenges of this day? Spend some time asking God for the wisdom you need today.

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### Wednesday: 2 Timothy 2:14-15, 23-25

Paul urged young Timothy to have nothing whatsoever to do with "stupid and senseless controversies" because "you know that they breed quarrels." Are there subjects that "trigger" in you a desire to argue with others? Paul wanted Timothy to be "a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth," and to be one who not only understood and could explain the scriptures accurately, but who embodied its truths. How might you share true wisdom gently and kindly with others? Can you ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in conversations, especially during this season of Lent?

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### Thursday: Psalm 119:11-12, 103-105

This Psalm offers a beautiful prayer model that can prepare us to "hear" and treasure God's word as we encounter it. We need to open our heart as well as our mind. You are invited to savor phrases and words of scripture here, to explore how these words might light your way. Look at a short passage, for example, John 3:16-17 or Psalm 23. Meditate of its phrases and commit it to memory this week.

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### Friday: James 1:22-25

To grow in faith involves study, but study is never simply an intellectual exercise. James said God seeks "doers of the word," not merely "hearers." This scripture shaped the life of Methodism's founder, John Wesley, who set about helping prisoners and widows in Oxford, England. As you talk to God today, what "doing" are you drawn to? Take a first step in the activity that God is calling you to do—today!

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### Saturday: Ephesians 4:11-16

The writer of Ephesians says that God's goal is for us to become "mature adults...fully grown." And what is our measuring stick? It is "the full stature of Christ." That's a tall order! As a community, we grow when every member seeks unity by "speaking the truth in love," and are growing in faith through thoughtful Bible study, guided by the Holy Spirit, seeking to become more and more like our Savior. As we continue on this journey of Lent, what are one or two areas of your life where God is calling you to grow? As you explore these practices, how might you begin to walk on a path toward growth?

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) nature, B) Kingdom of God, C) listen. IIA) remind, B) Jesus, C) divine reading. IIIA) flesh, B) person, C) community.*

\* Adapted from "grow. pray. study March 17, 2019 'The Walk: Growing in the Word'" Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, KS. [https://cor.org/leawood/sermon-series/the-walk#d/sermon/21964/cor\\_1](https://cor.org/leawood/sermon-series/the-walk#d/sermon/21964/cor_1)