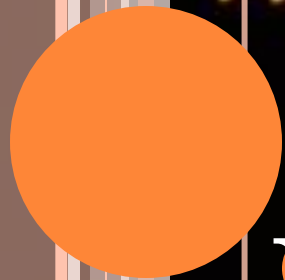




**NEW YEAR:**

**NEW OPPORTUNITIES**



# **WEEK 1 VERSE**

**Psalm 119:11**

**I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you.**

**Psalm 119:11**



# WEEK 2 VERSE

**John 14:21**

**<sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”**

**John 14:21**



# WEEK 3 VERSE

Psalm 46:10

“Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”

Psalm 46:10



# **WHY IS EXPERIENCING GOD SO IMPORTANT?**

- Isn't it sufficient to **KNOW** the truth about God without the emphasis on **EXPERIENCING** God?
- Facts without experience will not lead us into the life that Christ calls us to.
- **EXPERIENCE** without **KNOWLEDGE** will never lead us to a full knowledge of the one we serve or the life that He calls us to live.



# 1. WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO LEARN TO DISCERN

<sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.



# 1. **WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO LEARN TO DISCERN**

<sup>10</sup> The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!”

Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”



## 2. **GOD SPEAKS IN UNEXPECTED WAYS**

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup>

After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire.



## 2. **GOD SPEAKS IN UNEXPECTED WAYS**

And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup>  
When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”



### **3. SOMETIMES GOD CALLS AN AUDIBLE**

<sup>6</sup> Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. <sup>7</sup> When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. <sup>8</sup> So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.



### 3. **SOMETIMES GOD CALLS AN AUDIBLE**

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup> After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.



# **MEMORIZATION HELPS US LEARN TO DISCERN**

- Who is that on the line?



# MEMORIZATION TIPS

- Write it out
- Small bites
- Repetition –  
    Chew with your mouth open
- Paraphrase –  
    look for the logic



# MEMORIZATION TIPS

- Mnemonics
- What about children
- I just can't do it –  
we prize effort not perfection



# **THE VERSE OF THE WEEK**

**Hebrews 4:12**

**<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.**

**Hebrews 4:12**



# **SOW WHAT**

- We often speak about hearing from God. How do you know that it is God's message or voice that you are hearing?**
- What is the greatest barrier to memorization for you?**
- Is the Bible living, active and powerful in your life? How? If not why not?**

