



# Basic Lesson 8 – His Word, Our World

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Basic Principle - The Word of God is described as a double-edged sword. It can be wielded with the intent of fighting injustice and evil in the world, but unlike a weapon of war it heals that which it tears apart. (Hebrews 4:12). Christ followers ought to learn how to use scripture to pray for their world.

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Leader - Over the past several weeks you have been studying Biblical meditation. So far you have looked at the importance of context, worship, authority, how to listen to God, and how to respond when he speaks, all while practicing the art of reflecting on Scripture, rather than just reading it for content or knowledge.

In this lesson we will bring it all together and demonstrate how this is a powerful tool to take into your daily life.

- To best prepare it is advisable to **purchase 2-3 copies of various newspapers**. Consider - local, regional or national papers.
- If you don't have a paper, consider browsing several news sites for current events.
- In the Putting It Into Practice section you will review all of the scriptures previously meditated on in this series, but do so with the intention of seeding your prayers for the world at large.

## Thinking Things Through

1. What is happening in your life, right now, that concerns you?

Leader – Most small groups spend time at the **end** of their bible study to collect prayer requests, then pray for them. Often the sharing takes more time than the praying. Use this time, now, to collect a list of things to take before the Lord.

2. What is happening in the world, right now, that concerns you?

Leader – Pass around newspapers and let people spend some time considering the issues of the day. Create a list of things happening in the world, right now, that are bothersome and perhaps also concern the heart of God.

## Digging Deeper

3. Distribute the various scriptures that make up the "Putting it Into Practice" section (below). Each person should take 10-15 minutes reviewing the passages and listening to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Leader – Encourage people to consider the issues of their daily life, as they reflect on these passages. Only distribute passages of scripture that pertain to the issues discussed in questions 1 and 2. If something doesn't fit, don't include it.

4. What other passages of scripture can you think of which may be beneficial for praying for the issue of life and the world? You are encouraged to use them as well in this activity.
5. After reflecting on the scriptures, what did the Holy Spirit impress upon you to bring back to him in prayer?

Leader- This is a great time to ensure that the members of your group have understood the exercise they have spent these past weeks exploring.

## Doing Life Together

6. After 10-15 minutes of reflection move into a time of prayer, allowing the words of His Word shape the words of your prayers as you zero in on the issues you discussed.

**\*\*\*\*\* PRAY OUT WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS GUIDED YOU TO SAY THROUGH EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES AND THE NEWS \*\*\*\*\***

After spending time praying discuss:

- How were your prayers changed by this activity?
- How are you challenged to approach God's word differently as a result?
- What other scriptures can you think of, that might help shape how you pray?
- Where to go from here (advice for group members)
  - Read scripture with the idea that it will shape your prayers.
  - Observe world events while train your mind to respond in prayer to events around you.
  - Search the scriptures for things you can turn into prayers for others and the world
  - Expect God to impress upon you the things that are on his heart, and in turn shape your thoughts into prayer
  - Expect God to answer

## Putting It Into Practice

1. Print a copy of the following page for each participant of your group.
2. Pray that God's spirit would open your hearts and minds to his living Word.
3. Slowly read aloud Matthew 18:18-20 and Ephesians 6:10-17. Pausing at the end of each sentence.
4. When you get to the end of the passage allow people to make notes on what God's spirit is impressing on them.
5. After three or four minutes, reread the passage and repeat the exercise, allowing God's spirit to further impress upon your hearts His Truth.
6. Move into a time of prayer, allowing these revelations to inform you on how to pray, as well as applying them towards the things you would normally pray about. (Hint: Repeating the same prayers as others have already prayed ought to be encouraged as the spirit may be nudging people towards something important.) NOTE: For this meeting, do not share prayer requests before you begin. Instead, allow people to pray in authority about what concerns them. This will allow for an opportunity for them to practice them, and also place the potency of prayer back in their hands.
7. At the end, debrief the experience. How is this different or similar to how you normally pray? What did you learn from this passage that changed how you prayed

### Biblical Meditation is

sitting at Jesus' feet | hearing God through His Word | receiving His Word by faith  
responding, being a doer of the Word | praying out what you received

### Biblical Mediation results in

building faith | revelation | heart preparation | healing | strength | relationship  
| discipleship

### Meditation can be practiced in this way

- Use your Bible, read through the passage carefully.
- Take a silent time meditating on the passage.
- Go back and reread the passage, be alert, pondering the Word of God.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to direct you to focus on a portion of the Word.
- What is God saying to me that I can pray about?
- How do I apply this to myself? Ask- What does this teach me about the character of God? (God is pure, lovely, commendable...) What does this teach me about His will for my life? (He desires that I be pure, lovely, commendable...) His will for his Kingdom work on earth (as it is in heaven).
- What is my response to God?

## Matthew 18:18-20, New International Version (NIV)

<sup>18</sup> “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

<sup>19</sup> “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

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## Ephesians 6:10-17, New International Version (NIV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

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For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

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Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

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In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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## Ephesians 5:21-6:4, New International Version (NIV)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

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<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.<sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

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<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

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<sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body.<sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

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<sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

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<sup>6</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—<sup>3</sup> “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

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<sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

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**2 Chronicles 7:14, New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

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**1 Timothy 2:1-4, New International Version (NIV)**

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—  
<sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

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<sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

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**Psalms 67, New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us— so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

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<sup>3</sup> May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.

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<sup>4</sup> May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.

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<sup>5</sup> May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.

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<sup>6</sup> The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.

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<sup>7</sup> May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

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## John 17:13-26, New International Version (NIV)

<sup>3</sup>“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.

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<sup>15</sup>My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them by <sup>[a]</sup>the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

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<sup>20</sup>“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

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<sup>24</sup>“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

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<sup>25</sup>“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup>I have made you known to them and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

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## James 1:19-25, New International Version (NIV)

<sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.<sup>21</sup>

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Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

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<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

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<sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

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<sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

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## 1 Chronicles 16:23-31, New International Version (NIV)

Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.

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Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

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For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

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For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.  
Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his dwelling place.

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Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

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Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him.

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Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness. Tremble before him, all the earth!

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The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

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## Psalm 139, New International Version (NIV)

You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

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Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

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If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me, and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

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For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

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My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

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Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

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How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you. If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!

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They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

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Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

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## Jeremiah 29:1-14, New International Version (NIV)

This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

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<sup>2</sup> (This was after King Jehoiachin<sup>[a]</sup> and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the skilled workers and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) <sup>3</sup> He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said:

<sup>4</sup> This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup> "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. <sup>6</sup> Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease.

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<sup>7</sup> Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." <sup>8</sup> Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. <sup>9</sup> They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD.

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This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

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<sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

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<sup>14</sup> I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

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## Philippians 4:8-13, New International Version (NIV)

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

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Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice.

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And the God of peace will be with you.

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I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me.

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Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

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I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

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I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty.

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I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

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I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

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