

**Program:** SS Panel 2026 2 Q

**Quarterly title:** Growing in a Relationship With God

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**Lesson Title:** #04 The Role of the Bible

**Day Title:** Thursday - State of the Heart

**For Lesson Dates:** April 18–24, 2026

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**Note:** This color and font = quarterly text

**Note:** This color and font = John Dinzey notes

First and Last Name 2026 Q2 L# Title of your days lesson

John Dinzey 2026 Q2 L01 State of the Heart

Note: Mention the importance of prayer if not mentioned by others

]]> Emphasize this

Question:

>[=] Story:

REF:>>

\*\*\*READ\*\*\*

NIL: Not in Lesson

## The Role of the Bible

### Lesson 4

*\*April 18–24*

**Read for This Week's Study:** Lam. 3:22, 23; 2 Tim. 3:15–17; John 17:17; Eph. 1:13; Ps. 119:11; 1 Cor. 2:14.

**Memory Text:** “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12, NJKV).

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THURSDAY

April 23

## State of the Heart

Our ability to receive instruction from God's Word (*Job 22:22*) depends largely on what the state of our heart is like when we come to the Bible. How does 1 Corinthians 2:14 explain this?

**1 Corinthians 2:14** But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

**Job 22:22** Receive, please, instruction from His mouth, and lay up His words in your heart.

\*\*\*READ\*\*\*

The Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as surely as if we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe we would open God's Word and with what earnestness we would search its precepts. The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One. My Life Today, 383; A Call to Stand Apart 69.5 CSA

**]]>** God wants to speak to us through His Word — expecting a blessing

To have spiritual discernment means to have spiritual insight and understanding. It makes sense, then, that a spiritually open-minded person will have very different takeaways in reading the Bible than a spiritually closed-minded person. Someone who thinks the Bible is foolish won't look for truth in its pages.

So, both our attitude toward the Bible and the way we approach reading it are very important when it comes to growing in a relationship with God. How does Paul explain this in 1 Thessalonians 2:13?

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** 13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

\*\*\*READ\*\*\*

God's Word works in us when we believe. When you open your Bible and believe that God has something to say to you through the words on the pages, He will indeed speak to you and work in your life. But so much depends on your faith and your expectations. The good news is that if your faith is small, God can help it to grow (*Mark 9:24*), even if it's tiny like a mustard seed (*Luke 17:6*).

**Lord, I believe; help my unbelief**

**Mark 9:24** 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

\*\*\*READ\*\*\*

Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God's promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons. But angels are round about those who are willing to be taught in divine things; and in the time of great necessity they will bring to their remembrance the very truths which are needed. Thus "when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. ML 28.4 (ML = My Life Today)

>>> use Thy word is a lamp to my feet???

\*\*\*READ\*\*\*

One of the great purposes of the Bible is to speak truth into our lives about the condition of our relationship with God and how to strengthen it. **If your heart is open to the Holy Spirit, if you approach the Word with humility, you will always come away changed**, although one might not always immediately recognize this day by day, because such change and growth is often incremental. **But if we cling to our apathy and sin and are not willing to change, Bible reading can avail us little good. The**

Holy Spirit prompts us to move closer to Jesus Christ. Do we want to step closer? If so, we become “wise unto salvation” (2 Tim. 3:15), and we’ll see things we never even imagined.

### Lead me in Your truth and teach me

**Psalm 25:4-5** 4 Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths.

5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You *are* the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.

### the humble He teaches His way

**Psalm 25:8-9** 8 Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.

9 The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.

**]]>** Approach the study of the Bible with the spirit of a learner

**REF:>>>** The student of the Bible should be taught to approach it in the spirit of a learner. We are to search its pages, not for proof to sustain our opinions, but in order to know what God says. Ed 189.1

A true knowledge of the Bible can be gained only through the aid of that Spirit by whom the word was given. And in order to gain this knowledge we must live by it. All that God’s word commands, we are to obey. All that it promises, we may claim. The life which it enjoins is the life that, through its power, we are to live. Only as the Bible is thus held can it be studied effectively. Ed 189.2

### Then opened he their understanding

Luk 24:44 And he said unto them, **These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**

Luk 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

**Psalm 119:18** Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.

**Approach the study of God’s Word with a hunger and thirst for righteousness, a hunger and thirst to understand God’s Word.**

**Did not our heart burn within us**

Luk 24:32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

>>> If we don't come to the study of God's word with humility, with a spirit of a learner, with the hunger to understand God's word we will come away, empty, still hungry learning nothing at all.

>>> I like to envision that angels drawn near to us when we dedicate time to study God's word. Example:.....

Jhn 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Jhn 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Question: how can the Holy Spirit guide us into all truth, if we are not dedicating time to study God's word. The Bible says that his word is truth.

What is the state of my heart and mind as I approach the Bible? Am I just bringing my opinions to the Bible with the goal of trying to justify them, or am I coming with an open mind and heart, ready with childlike faith to see what God wants to tell me today? Why is that answer so important?

2Ti 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

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### From Friday's lesson

"It is one thing to treat the Bible as a book of good moral instruction, to be heeded so far as is consistent with the spirit of the times and our position in the world; it is another thing to regard it as it really is—the word of the living God, the word that is our life, the word that is to mold our actions, our words, and our thoughts. To hold God's word as anything less than this is to reject it. And this rejection by those who profess to believe it, is foremost among the causes of skepticism and infidelity in the youth."—Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 260.

[illegible]

## Additional Notes

**Mark 9:14-24** **14** And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them.

**15** Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to *Him*, greeted Him.

**16** And He asked the scribes, “What are you discussing with them?”

**17** Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.

**18** And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

**19** He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.”

**20** Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

**21** So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.

**22** And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

**23** Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes.”

**24** Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

## Parents must learn to be interested in the Bible to teach set a good example

“As a preparation for teaching His precepts, God commands that they be hidden in the hearts of the parents. “These words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart,” He says; “and thou shalt teach them diligently.” Deuteronomy 6:6, 7. In order to interest our children in the Bible, we ourselves must be interested in it. To awaken in them a love for its study, we must love it. Our instruction to them will have only the weight of influence given it by our own example and spirit.” Ed 187.1

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Our only safety lies in obeying the Word of God. The Bible is our Guidebook. It is to be laid up in the heart and studied with earnest prayer. This Word will make men right, and keep them right. The truth of God must control the heart of man, that his character and influence may not be contaminated by prevailing theories and unsanctified influences, that he may not misconstrue the plain Word, which is the voice of God. 13LtMs, Ms 150, 1898, par. 29

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The Bible teaches the whole will of God concerning us. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." The teaching of this word is exactly that needed in all circumstances in which we may be placed. It is a sufficient rule of faith and practise; for it is the voice of God speaking to the soul, giving the members of his family directions for keeping the heart with all diligence. If this word is studied,—not merely read, but studied,—it furnishes us with a storehouse of knowledge which enables us to improve every God-given endowment. It teaches us our obligation to use the faculties given us. Guided by its precepts, we may render obedience to God's requirements. RH December 15, 1896, par. 10

All who will come to the word of God for guidance, with humble, inquiring minds, determined to know the terms of salvation, will understand what saith the Scriptures. But those who bring to the investigation of the word a spirit which it does not approve, will take away from the search a spirit which it has not imparted. The Lord will not speak to a mind that is unconcerned. He wastes not his instruction on one who is willingly irreverent or polluted. But the tempter educates every mind that yields itself to his suggestions, and is willing to make of none effect God's holy law. RH December 15, 1896, par. 11

We need to humble our hearts, and with sincerity and reverence search the word of life; for that mind alone that is humble and contrite can see light. The heart, the mind, the soul, must be prepared to receive light. There must be silence in the soul. The thoughts must be brought into captivity to Jesus Christ. The boastful self-knowledge and self-sufficiency must stand rebuked in the presence of the word of God. RH December 15, 1896, par. 12

The Lord speaks to the heart that humbles itself before him. At the altar of prayer, as the throne of grace is touched by faith, we receive from the hand of God that

celestial torch which enlightens our darkness, and convinces us of our spiritual necessity. The Holy Spirit takes of the things of God, and reveals them to the one who is sincerely seeking for the heavenly treasure. If we yield to his guidance, he leads us into all light. As we behold the glory of Christ, we become changed into his image. We have that faith which works by love, and purifies the soul. Our hearts are renewed, and we are made willing to obey God in all things. RH December 15, 1896, par. 13

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Ask God to reveal light and truth to you by His Holy Spirit, that you may understand what you read in His Word. When, after the resurrection, Christ walked with the disciples to Emmaus, He opened their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures. The same divine Teacher will enlighten our understanding, if we keep the windows of the heart opened heavenward and closed earthward. The office of the Holy Spirit is to bring all things to our remembrance and to guide us into all truth. 18LtMs, Lt 25, 1903, par. 12

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The psalmist prayed, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law." [Psalm 119:18.] The Lord heard him; for how full of assurance are the words, "How sweet are Thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" [Verse 103.] "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." [Psalm 19:10.] And as the Lord heard and answered David, so He will hear and answer us, making our hearts full of gladness and rejoicing. 18LtMs, Lt 25, 1903, par. 14

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The study of the Bible demands our most diligent effort and persevering thought. As the miner digs for the golden treasure in the earth, so earnestly, persistently, must we seek for the treasure of God's word. Ed 189.3

In daily study the verse-by-verse method is often most helpful. Let the student take one verse, and concentrate the mind on ascertaining the thought that God has put into that verse for him, and then dwell upon the thought until it becomes his own. One passage thus studied until its significance is clear is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained. Ed 189.4



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You are greatly in need of a practical experience in the Christian life. You need to train the mind for the work of God. The character of your religious experience is made manifest largely by the character of the books that you choose to read in your leisure moments. The Bible is the Book of books, and if you love the Scriptures, searching them when you have opportunity, that you may come in possession of the rich treasures of the Word of God, and be thoroughly furnished unto all good works, then you may be assured that Jesus is drawing you to Himself. But to read the Scriptures in merely a casual way, without seeking to comprehend the lessons of Christ, that you may comply with His requirements, is not enough. There are rich treasures in the Word of God that can be discovered only by sinking the shaft deep into the mine of truth.

The Scriptures are given for our benefit that we may have instruction in righteousness. Precious rays of light have been obscured by the clouds of error, but Christ is ready to sweep away the mist of error and superstition, and reveal to us the brightness of the Father's glory, so that we shall say as did the disciples, "Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way?" The psalmist prayed, "Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law," and the Lord regarded his sincere prayer, for the sacred record records his satisfaction in the truth revealed to him. He says: "How sweet are Thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." How rare is this experience! . PH149 55.3-PH149 56.1