

The Importance of Reading the Bible

Right, who has their bibles? good! turn to the book of Hezekiah and we are going to read from Hezekiah 4:7. The first to get it, read it aloud.

First reason then to read your bibles is so that you don't look silly when someone says to turn to a book that doesn't exist.

The great thing about the bible is that it's steady, trustworthy. Unlike people at school or work who change their opinions all the time and tell lies, you can rely on the bible. Its a pillar, something that is always reliable. You can go to it when you are happy or sad, angry or tired and it will always tell you the truth. Its not like a guy who tells his girlfriend what she wants to hear when she ask him what she looks like? *does my bum look big in this? no. never. you look great!*

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY ABOUT ITSELF?

- A LAMP:

Psalm 119:105, His word lights our way. *How do you know where to go if you don't look at God's word?* I don't know about you but I need to read what God says otherwise I'm running around like a headless chicken. *How many of you go first to a friend or youth leader or pastor asking what to do? rather than going to God's word??* we all do it. Proverbs 3:5-6 says it perfectly.

- FOOD:

I think some of you are abit excited about this. *"I didn't know you could eat the bible! if only i'd know earlier!"* Anyway, God's word is food for us. 1 Peter 2:2 talks about craving the *"pure, spiritual milk"* like new born babies do. How many of you eat everyday? If you are like me then you start to worry if you haven't eaten in an hour or 2. My friend was so into the gym and fitness that his whole day revolved around his eating timetable. What he would eat? when he would eat? and how much he would eat? *Who wants this Mars bar? You see how quickly you wanted it.*

Why then do we frantically feed these bodies knowing that they are going to fall apart one day? Yet our spirits which are God's and eternal, we neglect! *When was the last time you scrambled to feed yourself with God's word in order that you were fed?* Also when did you last scramble to get some crisps because you were hungry? Even Jesus, God Himself, shows us the importance: Matthew 4:4.

WHY?

- Listening to God:

We always want to hear from God. *What's He saying to me? Why don't I ever hear His voice like my mate does? Why doesn't God tell me what to do?* We always a revelation but forget that God has actually written 66 books called the Bible where He is speaking to us in so many different ways.

- For Prayer:

_____ God's word aids us in prayer. See John 15:7. Jesus says that if He stays within us and His words remain us then whatever we ask for, will be given. You wouldn't have known that if it wasn't for God's word.

- Creates Faith:

When you are feeling weak or low just read these:
Romans 10:17, Mark 11:24 & Romans 8:1,2

HOW?

- Make Time:

It is a sacrifice to read God's word but unless we make time we will never get around to it. We make time for TV, friends, football, food etc.. Why not the Bible? We all know should, but do we? If we read in the morning and before bed we start and finish our day with God's word.

- Make Space:

Find a quiet place. Its hard to read when people are coming into your room all the time. I used to have to lock myself in the bathroom to find some peace. It was the only place I could escape!

- Make Sense:

There is no point reading if we don't understand. The amazing thing is that the Holy Spirit wrote this book so who best to help us. Just simple pray each time that He would help you understand it.

As you mum used to say "*its not a race*", therefore don't rush. Read it slowly!

To finish, Hebrews 4:12 says..... God's word is never boring or tame. It's alive, and can cut you in two. Luckily we are on God's side. Keep reading! Thank you.