

Message by John Johnson  
June 6-7, 2009  
Joshua 1:8  
The Discipline of the Word.

The summer preaching series will be focusing on the Spiritual Disciplines. The particular disciplines that we will be covering are:

Reading Scripture, Joy, Submission, Solitude,	Prayer, Worship, Earth-keeping, Confession,	Purity, Opportunity, Humility, Sharing Jesus.	Giving, Fasting, Community,
--	--	--	-----------------------------------

Questions for Discussion:

1. Read the selection of Joshua 1:1-9. What is the story here with Joshua? God gives Joshua very particular instructions for the task he is about to undertake, but the first thing he is to do to study the Word of God. Is this Joshua's first experience in leadership or with God? What kinds of experiences has Joshua witnessed?  
If Joshua has seen such miraculous acts by God, what is the big deal with the Word? Why do you believe that God had to give Joshua instructions to 'follow the Law' since he had observed Moses and his leadership for so long?
2. What does the Word represent to us? Is it optional to understand what it says to us? What does it mean when we say that it is 'God's revelation' to us? What does it mean to you, personally? Is it optional to accept- trust, believe- what it says to us? (In other words, can we pick and choose scriptures?)
3. Pastor Johnson mentioned that we must apply our will, our eye, our ear and our mind to the process of reading the Word. Which of these is the most difficult for you to apply? What does it take for you to make all of these work together?
4. What do you do when you read a passage of Scripture that is confusing? Where or to whom do you go for some clarity? What about when it is still not easy to understand? What part does prayer play in your understanding?
5. Challenge: Pastor Johnson issued this 'challenge'.
  - a. Begin every day with the Word.
  - b. Stick with a particular scripture passage for the next week. Meditate on it each day. Listen to what God is speaking through that passage.  
Isaiah 40; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Psalm 63; Hebrews 11:1-4

All of scripture is written and can be read as literature. It is poetry, narrative story, letters, or prophetic literature of some sort. Try reading the passage you are focusing on in a manner that follows with its type of literature. Read out loud so that your eyes, mouth, ears, and mind are all engaged. Remember that Romans says 'faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ'.