



DOERS OF THE WORD

CLOVERDALE 2022 BIBLE STUDY PLAN

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."
(James 1.22-25)

At Cloverdale, we want to be people who not only regularly read God's word, but also do what it says, and that is the focus of this year's Bible study plan.

Each month, there will be a **daily reading** centered on one of the key ideas from our statement of purpose (see the back page): discipleship, inviting, maturing, sending, hospitality, and intergenerational. Following each reading will be a **reflection question** along with space to **write down your thoughts**. In order to be doers of the word, we have also provided ideas that you can choose from or come up with your own to help you **put the word into practice**.

As in previous years, we ask that you find someone who will commit to being your Bible study partner for the year, and one day each week, meet with your partner to discuss your reflections on that week's readings, and also to discuss the things you are doing to be obedient to God's word.

Name of my Bible study partner _____

APRIL

M A T U R I N G

April 1: Genesis 15.1-6

Why did Abram and Sarai experience so many hardships even when they did what God asked them to do? What difficulties am I facing that might be opportunities for God to help me grow in maturity?

April 2: Genesis 22.1-18

How does the question of scarcity play into the maturing of Abraham into "the man of faith" (Galatians 3.9)? What are insecurities that I struggle with?

April 3: Genesis 32.22-32

How does Jacob's terrible night result in a new name and a stronger relationship with God? What past hardships were breakthrough moments for me?

April 4: Genesis 45.1-15

How did Joseph learn to trust God's care and timeline? How can these insights help me grow in my own trust in God?

April 5: Exodus 3.1-12

Why does Moses initially reject God's plan for him to rescue Israel? Has God asked me to do something, but I have refused for similar reasons?

Putting it into Practice (choose one of these ideas or come up with your own)

- Participate in something I have been afraid to try at church (teach a class, serve on a team or committee, get a CDL, etc.).
- Think of a difficult circumstance in my life that helped me to trust God more, and then share that insight with someone.

April 6: Exodus 19.1-6

Obeying rules *can* lead to legalism (immaturity), but it can also lead to greater faith (maturity). How am I obeying God's commands in a way that leads to greater faith?

April 7: Lev. 11.41-45; 20.22-26

What does God mean when He says, "You shall be holy, for I am holy"? Is holiness something God gives to me or something He grows in me?

April 8: Numbers 13.25-33

How did attitude factor into Israel's equation of maturation? What is my attitude toward maturing in faith (spiritual formation)?

April 9: Deuteronomy 4.1-14

How does teaching others what I have learned from my walk with God help me to continue growing further in my faith?

April 10: Deuteronomy 7.6-26

God gave Israel challenges in the Exodus and Conquest of Canaan to build their faith. What were some of the lessons? Have I had similar testing?

Putting it into Practice (choose one of these ideas or come up with your own)

- Identify something that would lead me to be holier and take steps to practice it.
- Identify a biblical passage or subject that I would like to understand better and find resources that will help me grow in that area.

April 11: Judges 2.11-23

God was persistent in maturing Israel so that they could experience the joys of life He intended for them. How has God been persistently pushing me?

April 12: Ruth 2.1-7

Name some ways that Ruth and Boaz showed maturity despite the national immaturity of the time in which they lived. How willing am I to rise above the times and how might I do that?

April 13: 1 Kings 9.1-9

Solomon had a choice to make regarding whether he would walk with God and be wise or not. What are some decisions that I should make in order to have more time to walk with God and become wise?

April 14: Ezra 7

How did Ezra prepare himself to be useful in God's plan? How am I making preparations to be ready to serve when He calls?

April 15: Job 42.1-6

Job is known for having suffered greatly. What lessons did he learn from these trials? Have I missed such lessons in my life because I was only asking for God to give me relief?

Putting it into Practice (choose one of these ideas or come up with your own)

- Think of something where God has been persistently pushing me to grow up, but I have been pushing back. Stop fighting and walk in humble obedience.
- Read a book that will challenge me to learn more about the Lord's will rather than just distract me for a few hours.

April 16: Psalm 1

What signs of a mature faith are described by the Psalmist? Can I see these signs in my life?

April 17: Proverbs 2

List some of the benefits that come from seeking God's commandments and wisdom. Which items would I most like to see in my life?

April 18: Luke 2.41-52

In what different aspects of life does the text say that Jesus matures? How would I evaluate my own maturity in these different aspects?

April 19: Romans 5.1-14

How do sufferings in life contribute toward my spiritual maturity?

April 20: Romans 12.1-2

What was the main qualification of an acceptable sacrifice in the Mosaic Law? How does Paul relate that to our lives as Christ followers? How am I growing in my understanding and discernment of God's will?

Putting it into Practice (choose one of these ideas or come up with your own)

- Identify someone who has suffered greatly and talk with them about how it affected their faith and spiritual maturity.
- Take a spiritual gift inventory. Identify ways I can put those gifts to work and take a step down that path.

April 21: 1 Corinthians 3.1-3

Christians can be stuck in worldly thoughts and habits. Does my life reflect infancy or maturity; milk or solid food? How so?

April 22: 2 Cor. 6.14-7.1

Paul tells the Corinthians that they are not just saved from sin, but have become the temple where God lives. What steps am I taking to clean my house for God's Spirit to dwell in me?

April 23: Galatians 5.16-26

Does my life more reflect the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit? How could I improve?

April 24: Ephesians 4.1-16

How is unity in the Body of Christ connected to maturity?

April 25: 1 Timothy 4.6-16

Paul tells Timothy to pursue training in what areas? How does hope help us exercise our spiritual muscles? Am I as concerned for my spiritual health as my physical health?

Putting it into Practice (choose one of these ideas or come up with your own)

- Develop a "workout plan" to help me grow in spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible study, fasting, etc.). For example, set aside a specific time every day to pray.
- Choose a fruit of the Spirit where I need improvement and pray for God's help and seek opportunity each day in doing that.

April 26: Hebrews 5.12-14

Is the process of maturing spiritually something that God expects? What are some tangible ways in which I have grown in my faithfulness to God?

April 27: Hebrews 6.1-3

How have I developed a mature understanding—beyond elementary teachings—of the scriptures?

April 28: James 3.13-18

What are the manifestations of “wisdom from above”? Are these characteristics in my life? What earthly desires prevent me from maturing in Christ?

April 29: 1 Peter 4.12-19

Peter talks about trials and tests that will come, but does so using words like “glory”, “rejoicing”, and “blessed”. How does Peter explain that such times bring us closer to the Father, Son, and Spirit?

April 30: 2 Peter 3.14-18

What does Peter ask Christians waiting for the Lord’s return to do? How will these actions keep them safe in hard times? How will these actions benefit me and those I love?

Putting it into Practice (choose one of these ideas or come up with your own)

- Write down a list of people who have trained me to do new things for the Lord. Write down a list of people I am training to do new things for Jesus.
- Write about a personal experience that was painful and try to see it from the perspective of the Holy Spirit helping me to grow in maturity.

Cloverdale seeks to be an intergenerational church that loves God and loves others by:

- **Inviting all peoples to become disciples of Christ**
- **Maturing as disciples by the power of the Holy Spirit**
- **Sending disciples to engage in God's mission throughout the world**

MATURING: *Through such disciplines as study, prayer, fasting, and confession we will go from "milk" to "meat" in our understanding of the nature of God.*

SPIRITUAL GIFT INVENTORY:

- <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/cgi-cg/gifts.cgi?intro=1>

SPIRITUAL GIFT DESCRIPTIONS:

- <http://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm>
- <http://buildingchurch.net/g2s-d.htm>



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