



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 _____

JANUARY **DISCIPLESHIP**

January 1: James 1.22-25

What does it mean to be a doer of the word and not a hearer only? Have I been an active hearer (reader) of the word but fooled myself by not putting it into practice?

January 2: Matthew 4.18-22

In what ways am I actively "fishing for men"? Name the people I am currently helping to become a follower or more mature follower of Jesus.

January 3: Matthew 5.1-12

The Beatitudes are character traits of disciples of Jesus. Which of these describe me? In which of these do I need improvement?

January 4: Matthew 5.13-16

What does it mean to be salt of the earth? What does it mean to be light? How am I doing at this?

January 5: Matthew 5.21-26

Are there brothers or sisters that I worship with who have something against me or vice versa? What steps do I need to take to be reconciled with that person?

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

- Choose one person I can begin to "fish for" and start praying for that person daily.
- Find someone who exemplifies a Beatitude in which I need to grow and have a conversation with them about that characteristic.
- Identify someone I need to be reconciled with and take the first step.

January 6: Matthew 5.27-30

Do I struggle with lust? Jesus indicates that we should take extreme measures to avoid lust; what might that look like in my life?

January 7: Matthew 5.33-37

Am I someone of such integrity that people can just accept me at my word? If not, what should I do about that?

January 8: Matthew 5.38-42

How have I turned the other cheek in my life? When someone has taken something from me, how have I "given my coat" as well? How have I "gone the extra mile"?

January 9: Matthew 5.43-48

Who are my enemies? Do I pray for them? How do I show love to them?

January 10: Matthew 6.1-4

Do I give to others "in secret" without being recognized or receiving credit?

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

- Take an "extreme measure" to help me avoid lust.
- Identify a commitment I've made to someone but not kept, and try to make it right.
- Identify someone I might consider to be an enemy and begin praying regularly for them.
- Find a special need and make an anonymous donation.

January 11: Matthew 6.5-15

How well do I know the Lord's Prayer? Do I pray this prayer in my own life?

January 12: Matthew 6.14-15

Is there someone I haven't forgiven? Have I convinced myself that God will forgive me even if I refuse to forgive someone else?

January 13: Matthew 6.16-18

Jesus says "*when you fast.*" When was the last time that I fasted?

January 14: Matthew 6.19-23

If we are honest, we all have significant treasures on earth—what can I do to shift my priorities to investing in heaven?

January 15: Matthew 6.24

How does my need to work and have money turn into *serving* money? How does it get in the way of serving God?

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

- Memorize the Lord's prayer and pray through it, expanding on each line in my own words.
- Make a plan to skip a meal (fast) and spend that time in prayer or service instead.
- Commit some time you would have spent working (earning more money) and spend it serving God or His church instead.

January 16: Matthew 6.25-34

Am I anxious about the things of life (food, clothing, housing) or do I trust God to provide for my needs?

January 17: Matthew 7.1-5

Jesus says that we get to decide how we will be judged by God. What "measure" am I creating that will be used on me on the day of judgment?

January 18: Matthew 7.7-12

Do I actively "ask, seek, and knock", or am I unsure whether God cares about the details of my life?

January 19: Matthew 7.13-14

Am I on the narrow road or the broad road? How important is it for me to be approved by people? How has the narrow road been difficult?

January 20: Matthew 7.15-20

Have I misunderstood the message in this passage by believing my goal is to *not* bear *bad* fruit? Which trees were the ones that were cut down and burned?

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

- Pray for God to ease my anxieties, and cast my specific worries upon Him. Also, seek out someone who is at peace and share my anxious thoughts with them.
- Identify something that I am doing (or not doing) in order to seek approval from others, and change that behavior to reflect what God approves of in my life.

January 21: Matthew 7.24-27

Putting Jesus's words "into practice" is building on a foundation of rock. What specific ways have I put Jesus' words into practice? Is it hard to come up with a list?

January 22: Matthew 7.28-29

We know Jesus had authority to teach as He did. Do my decisions and priorities reflect Jesus' authority over my life?

January 23: Matthew 8.18-22

Following Jesus may lead to discomfort or inconvenience. Is that true in my life?

January 24: Matthew 10.34-39

Are there relationships in my life that come before Jesus? What would reordering those relationships look like?

January 25: Matthew 19.16-30

What important truths do I need to be reminded of from the Rich Young Ruler?

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

- Pray for God to give me a challenging opportunity that will help me grow in service to Him.
- Give away a possession that I would rather keep or donate money to someone who needs it.

January 26: Matthew 28.16-20

What are the four action verbs Jesus is asking of His disciples? What are the implications for me? Am I playing any part in this "Great Commission"?

January 27: Acts 9.1-31

When looking at Saul's conversion, what immediate changes can I see in his life? As a follower of Jesus, does my life look different than it did before I was one?

January 28: Acts 9.36-43

Dorcas was a Jesus follower; what did her life look like? Compare/contrast her life to my own: can people easily see my good works?

January 29: Acts 11.26

How might the name "Christian" undermine the sense of what a disciple might be? Is there a danger of being Christians in name only?

January 30: John 15.1-17

What kind of fruit am I bearing (good or bad)? As I reflect on my daily actions, is a change needed? What steps can I take to begin that change?

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

- Sign up to go on a short-term mission trip or get involved in a community outreach work.
- Learn about the different ministries that Cloverdale is involved in and sign up to help with one. Better yet, sign up along with another person.

January 31: Ezra 7.1-10

How does Ezra 7.10 relate to discipleship? Is my heart set to study God's word and to teach it to others?

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



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