

One Big Story

A Lakeside Quiet Time

In 2026, Lakeside is inviting everyone to dive into “One Big Story,” the story of Jesus that the Bible tells from beginning to end, from Genesis to Revelation. This is going to be an exciting journey as we see how every page points to Christ. To help you in that journey, we’ve developed this booklet as a guide to help you learn how to spend time daily with God using your Bible. Learning how to do that consistently and well will help you get the most out of this journey and your Bible this year and for years to come.

In the booklet, we will focus on three approaches to the Bible this year:

1. How to have a daily quiet time
2. How to memorize Scripture
3. How to pray

The Lakeside Way of Having a Quiet Time

“The Lakeside Way of Having a Quiet Time” does not rely on using devotional books written by another author. As valuable as those kinds of books may be, the Bible itself is the ultimate - and best - devotional, written by the divine Author (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Our goal in our quiet time is to connect directly with Him.

The basic format of a quiet time is like a sandwich, with prayer as the two slices of bread and the “meat” in between being the Word of God.

- First, we pray for 1-2 minutes that God would open our heart and mind to hear Him speak to us.
- Second, we read Scripture for 5-10 minutes with our eyes and heart wide open considering how God might teach us, convict us, encourage us, or challenge us to obey Him in some fashion.
- Third, we take time to work on memorizing a particular verse for 1-3 minutes that we can carry around with us throughout the day.
- Lastly, we pray again for 2-5 minutes, thanking Him for His Word and for speaking to us, while asking Him for help in obeying Him throughout our day. This is a good time to pray for any other issues or confess any sin we’re struggling with.

Reading the Bible in 2026

Within our quiet time are laying out the goal to read through the entire Bible in 2026, as part of this One Big Story journey as a church. Now, the idea of reading through the entire Bible in one year can be an intimidating one. There are a lot of words and pages, and a lot of the Bible seems hard to understand. But it really takes less than 15 minutes a day to read through the Bible in a year.

As a companion to the One Big Story series, you are being provided with a one-year “blended” Bible reading plan, which combines readings from the Old Testament and New Testament every day. If you miss a day, don’t feel guilty, don’t go back, just move forward. After all, this is not primarily about completing the reading plan, but developing a habit of having a quality, daily quiet time with the Lord. Your big goal in pursuing this should be to develop a daily Bible-reading habit that will help you mature in your walk with God for the rest of your life.

As you read, train yourself to meditate on Scripture by considering key questions like:

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does the passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people?
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray?

(Taken from *Seven Arrows* by Rogers and Mathis)

You may have other questions while you read: Who is this person? Where is this place? What is Jesus talking about? You can write those questions down and come back later when you have more time to search out their answers or discuss them with others at Lakeside.

Memorize Scripture

One of the most important and valuable habits to develop as a follower of Jesus is to learn to memorize Scripture. Doing so helps yourself and other people by equipping you to encourage, evangelize, or exhort others in all kinds of situations as you point them to Jesus.

Alongside the reading plan, you are being provided with a suggested verse memorization plan based on the Navigators Topical Memory System. If you’ve never

memorized Scripture before, here are some tips: Write down the verse on an index card. Write the verse reference or “address” before and after the verse, like this:

1 Thessalonians 5:17

"Pray without ceasing."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Then repeat the verse, and its address before and after the verse, out loud 10 times in one sitting per day for at least one week. In the second week, repeat the verse 5 to 10 times in one sitting every day. Then review on a weekly basis. Sharing your verse with a friend or family member, even your children, and even asking them to check your accuracy can help you memorize it faster.

You'll find that as you memorize a verse, you'll inevitably begin to meditate on it. That's why we wouldn't recommend using your phone to memorize Scripture. Having your phone open can prove to be a distraction and interfere with that process.

More on Prayer

When it comes to praying at the beginning and end of your devotions, here are some tips:

- Follow the A.C.T.S. model:
 - Adoration: Praise God for who He is, His power and omniscience, His holiness, and that He sees you, hears you and cares for you.
 - Confession: Confess to God your wrong attitudes, words and deeds, your purposeful transgressions and sins of apathy. Ask Him to help you gain victory.
 - Thanksgiving: Thank God for what He has done for you and all his blessings. Also thank him for the things in life that make you worried and anxious, knowing that he uses those to refine you and make you more like Himself.
 - Supplication: Simply tell God what you want Him to do and ask Him to show you and lead you to follow His will.
- Pray the Scriptures God is giving you by making it first person (for yourself) or third person (for someone else). For example:
 - John 3:16 – “Thank you for loving me so much that you died for me.”
 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 – “Dear Lord, help me be kind and patient, not resentful.”

- Joshua 1:8 – “Help me memorize Scripture and have it always ‘in my mouth’ so that I can live according to Your Word. Help me instill those habits in my family.”
- Pray through a list. You can write down things on your mind today that you want to commit to God. It could be a situation at work, in your family, a church project, or the request of a friend.

God Wants You to Seek Him

While it might still seem like work, there is no better way to draw near to God than to labor with Him than through His Word. So remember the following encouragements from these Scriptural promises about our engagement with the Bible:

- God honors the one who seeks Him with all their heart and trembles at his Word. (Isaiah 66:2; 2 Chronicles 16:9)
- God blesses and brings success to the one who delights in his Word. (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3)
- It’s only through Scripture we get to know Jesus. (Luke 24:25-27, 44-45; John 5:39)
- God brings us to maturity and equips us through His Word to comfort and instruct others. (2 Corinthians 1:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

God bless you as you embark on this great adventure of One Big Story in your morning quiet times with Him.