

**A Joyful Handbook for Survival in a Joyless World**  
**Message Outline April 3, 2011**  
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The Word of God is the ultimate authority by which we are to live our lives. Yet, American Christians are evidencing a “functional illiteracy” of Scripture like never before. The results are obvious, and catastrophic. Won’t you renew your commitment today to be people of the Word? The threefold goal of our time together is...

**1. Family Update: a snapshot of your extended Evangelical Free Church of American (EFCA) West family...**

**2. A Personal Challenge... a lifestyle of getting to know God’s Word**

*We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises. (Article 2, EFCA Statement of Faith).*

**Benefits of a regular reading plan:**

- \*Steadily increasing mastery of the Scriptures
- \*Daily opportunity to hear from and see the Lord
- \*Better equipped to speak truth and wisdom to others
  - \*When others share the practice, the interaction component multiplies
  - \*For families, an especially good way to interact with scripture together

**Suggestions:**

- \*There are several reading plans: alternate them from year to year. Consider “The One Year Bible” ([www.oneyearbible.org](http://www.oneyearbible.org))
- \*Consider reading one chapter of Proverbs daily for several months a year
- \*Supplement your reading with a favorite commentary (study bible: Ryrie, ESV, NIV, Classic Commentaries, etc.)
- \*Establish a regular time and place, preferably morning
- \*Consider computer and Smartphone applications ([www.Laridian.com](http://www.Laridian.com))
- \*Consider some form of Journaling: To the Lord, or to a loved one

- \***Most important:** WHEN you fall behind, come back in at the place the schedule is on, instead of trying to catch up
- \*Just do it

**3. Example for today (April 3):**

*Deuteronomy 23:1-25:19; Luke 10:13-37; Psalm 75:1-10; Proverbs 12:12-14 or Proverbs Chapter 3*

Nuggets from Deuteronomy 23-25:

Nuggets from Luke 10:

Nuggets from Psalm 75:

Nuggets from the Proverbs:

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*Learn the Word of the Christ, in order to know the Christ of the Word*