

# Too Daunting or Too Familiar?

## Lesson 1

### INTRODUCTION:

- DISCUSS: What are some things that we often take for granted because we are so familiar with them?
  - It's incredibly easy to take familiar things for granted. Familiarity can be one of the most dangerous things in the world.
  - Is it possible that you might take God's Word for granted?
- People are often intimidated by the Bible. Have you ever thought about why?
  - For some it is the size. The Bible is massive – a whole library wedged between two covers!
  - Some are intimidated by what they don't understand. It's an ancient book filled with names and places and customs from another world.
  - The Bible intimidates some because of what they do understand. Scripture doesn't always say what we wish it would say.
  - For others (like us), they wouldn't say they are intimidated by their Bibles. A better word might be bored. They believe it, but they have ceased to be amazed by it any longer. This comes from taking it for granted.
- For those who might be bored, a change in approach might be required. How we approach things matters in a huge way. At the risk of sounding like your mother, the issue could be "poor posture."
- For the next few weeks we will discuss the proper posture we should each have when we approach God's Word.

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. Approach your Bible **prayerfully**.
  - a. Most of us have heard a lesson or two about prayer as a response to what we read in the Bible – what we do *after* we read. But have you ever thought about what to do *before* you read your Bible?
  - b. Author Matt Smethurst wrote, "I am convinced that a prayerless approach to God's Word is a major reason for the low-level dissatisfaction that hums beneath the surface of our lives."
  - c. Approaching Scripture apart from prayer is one of the most counterproductive things we do.
  - d. So how do we do it? What does it mean to pray in anticipation of what we will discover in our Bible? How do we approach our Bibles prayerfully?
  - e. Just remember your **I-O-U-S!**
    - i. Psalm 119:36 – "**I**ncline my heart to your testimonies..."
      1. This assumes our hearts are bent in the wrong direction. Our Bibles are important, but other things in life seem to loom larger.
      2. What are your first thoughts in the morning? What do I have planned today? What am I going to eat for breakfast? What's happened on social media or the news?
      3. These common thoughts remind us that we must be mindful of God and of the things of God. Every day we have to be reminded that we must turn our attention off of self and toward the Lord.
      4. This is when we pray, "Incline my heart..."
    - ii. Psalm 119:18 – "**O**pen my eyes..."
      1. There is one major factor that separates the Bible from all other literature: The third person of the eternal Trinity breathed out its words!

2. We have a chance to have a personal relationship with the Author of this life-changing Book!
  3. When you approach your Bible, ask the Holy Spirit to unblind you to the beauty staring you in the face.
- iii. Psalm 86:11 – “Unite my heart...”
    1. The Devil knows that the easiest way to keep us from God’s Word is to distract us, to hold up captivating shiny objects, to lure us into thinking about something – anything – else.
    2. A social commentator once wrote, “One of the great uses of social media will be to prove at the Last Day that prayerlessness was not from lack of time.”
    3. We must pray earnestly for a united heart, lest it drift toward being divided, distracted, and distant from the words of the living God.
  - iv. Psalm 90:14 – “Satisfy me...”
    1. It’s hard to admit, but most of the time we don’t think God can ultimately satisfy us. We think that if we are going to be happy we will need to look to something or someone else.
    2. Because of this, we need to approach God’s Word prayerfully, asking Him to satisfy the restless heart with His steadfast love that is described on page after page of the Bible.
2. Approach your Bible **humbly**.
    - a. The Scriptures we have read in point one paint a picture of a humble heart. We approach God’s Word knowing what we are holding and recognizing our need for God’s help as we read.
    - b. The Bible is an astonishing Book and it proves two critical facts about God’s character that we need to recognize.
    - c. First, the existence of the Bible reveals that God is a talker!
      - i. God could have remained silent; but He didn’t. Your Bible is tangible evidence that the Maker of the universe is a communicator; He’s someone who initiates, who reveals, who speaks.
      - ii. God has spoken. Your Bible is an all-access pass into the revealed mind and heart of God.
    - d. Second, the Bible reminds us that we are doubly undeserving of it.
      - i. First, we are nothing more than a created being. It’s amazing that God would communicate with us! Someone once said, “The God in heaven and earth forfeited His personal privacy and befriended us!”
      - ii. Second, we are sinners. Not only are we creatures of the dust but also traitors against heaven’s throne! The fact that God would want anything to do with us is astounding. He would’ve been entirely right to leave us to ourselves, sunk in an ocean of ignorance and guilt.
    - e. The Bible you possess is evidence that God loves you and wants a relationship with you.

**APPLICATION:**

- Applying the I-O-U-S is an easy one! How can they remember these verses? Challenge them to pray these four verses before they start the day with the Bible on their lap. You may want to give them a small card with the verses printed on it, etc.
- How has this lesson challenged you in your posture toward the Bible?