

LEARN: Mining for Gold

Lesson for Sunday, March 15, 2026

TEACHER: *Most of your time should be spent on point 3 and the application! Plan well!*

INTRODUCTION: *Use the introduction to review what we have been learning up to this point.*

- ⇒ TIP: Use the board, have fun, bring some simple rewards for those who participate.
- ⇒ We are in week seven of answering the question: What is a disciple?
- ⇒ Who can remember the four calls of Jesus?
- ⇒ Who can remember how Jesus described God's will for every believer in John 15?
- ⇒ Who can remember the three types of spiritual fruit we find described in the Bible?
- ⇒ Who can remember the six spiritual disciplines that work together to produce fruit?
 - Communicate, Learn, Obey, Store, Evangelize, Renew
- ⇒ Last week we discussed the importance of Communication with God – the spiritual discipline of prayer. This week we want to look at the discipline we refer to as “learn.” As Christians we must learn to mine the Scriptures for spiritual gold.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The Importance of Learning to Mine
 - a. What do we know to be true about the Word of God?
 - b. Look up the following verses as a class and determine the value of God's Word. *You don't have time to teach these points! Look up the verses; read them; fill in the blanks and move on!*
 - i. God's Word is **inspired** (2 Timothy 3:16).
 1. This means that God wrote it.
 2. If God (Who is perfect) wrote it, we can trust it.
 - ii. God's Word is **sufficient** (2 Timothy 3:17).
 - iii. God's Word is **alive** and **powerful** (Hebrews 4:12).
 - iv. God's Word provides **direction** (Psalm 119:105).
 - v. God's Word keeps us from **sin** (Psalm 119:9).
 - vi. God's Word is more **valuable** than gold (Psalm 19:10).
 - c. Considering what we know about God's Word, think about the following statements:
 - i. As a Christian, your relationship with God and your relationship with the Bible are inseparable.
 - ii. We cannot know God apart from the Bible.
 - iii. You cannot be a true disciple apart from His Word.
 - d. This is why this spiritual discipline is so critical to your life. We must learn study the Bible for ourselves. Otherwise, we will stunt our spiritual growth and never be fruit producing disciples.
 - i. Objection: Some will say, “How can I understand the Bible? It's too difficult!”
 - ii. Answer: It's not too difficult. It just requires discipline (spiritual sweat).
 - iii. Think about it: Why would God go to supernatural lengths to give us His Word and then make it too difficult to understand?
2. The Goal of Biblical Mining
 - a. What is the purpose of learning to study God's Word? Simple: We **study** the Bible to **know** God so we can **obey** God.
 - b. Studying the Bible is not an end unto itself. It is God's primary tool for turning us into disciples.
 - c. God's Word is not a magic charm that will bless us if we spend “x” amount of time reading and studying weekly.

- d. Remember Jesus's words in Matthew 7? Jesus said that the wise person hears God's Word and then "doeth them" – or acts on them (see vs. 24)!
 - e. As you get to know God's Word you get to know God. That's the goal! Because to know Him is to **love** Him, and to love Him is to serve and **obey** Him!
3. How to Mine God's Word – or – How to HEAR Properly
- a. Studying God's Word requires some basic ingredients: a specific time, place, pen and paper. Once these have been determined, use this simple acrostic to HEAR from God.
 - b. Choose a passage of Scripture, then...
 - c. **HIGHLIGHT** (answer these questions on paper):
 - i. Locate it: Write down the Scripture reference.
 - ii. Identify it: Note the specific verses that speak to you.
 - iii. Author: Who wrote it?
 - iv. Name it: Come up with a title to describe the verses.
 - d. **EXPLAIN**: The goal here is to discover what the text means. Remember that God's Word means what it says. Don't look for a magical or hidden meaning. Take the Bible at face-value.
 - i. Why was this passage written?
 - ii. To whom was the author writing?
 - iii. What is author's intended meaning to his original audience?
 - iv. What is God doing in this text? (He's always the main character!)
 - v. Summarize in one sentence the primary teaching in this text.
 - e. **APPLY**: These questions will help you bridge the gap from the ancient world to our world today:
 - i. How can this help me?
 - ii. What does this mean today?
 - iii. What would the application of this verse look like in my life?
 - iv. What is God saying to me?
 - f. **RESPOND**: What do you think God wants you to do because of what you have learned? Your response may vary...
 - i. It may be a specific call to action; something you need to do.
 - ii. You may respond by writing out a specific prayer to God.
 - iii. You may have someone you need to see today!
 - iv. Whatever your response, it needs to be specific, and you need to write it down and commit to God in prayer.

APPLY: Teacher, choose a familiar passage of Scripture and develop a HEAR journal entry together as a class. Here's a sample you may choose, but feel free to choose a passage of Scripture that you feel is applicable to your class.

TEXT: Philippians 4:10-13

HIGHLIGHT: Focus in on verse 13

EXPLAIN: Paul was telling the church at Philippi that he had discovered the secret of contentment. No matter the situation in Paul's life, he realized that Christ was all he needed, and Christ was the One who strengthened him to persevere through difficult times.

APPLY: In my life I will experience many ups and downs. My contentment is not found in circumstances. Rather, it is based on my relationship with Jesus. Only Jesus gives me the strength I need to be content in every circumstance of life.

RESPOND: Prayer: *Lord Jesus, please help me as I strive to be content in You. Help me to view my circumstances through the truth that by your strength I can endure even the most difficult of times.*