

The Word of God

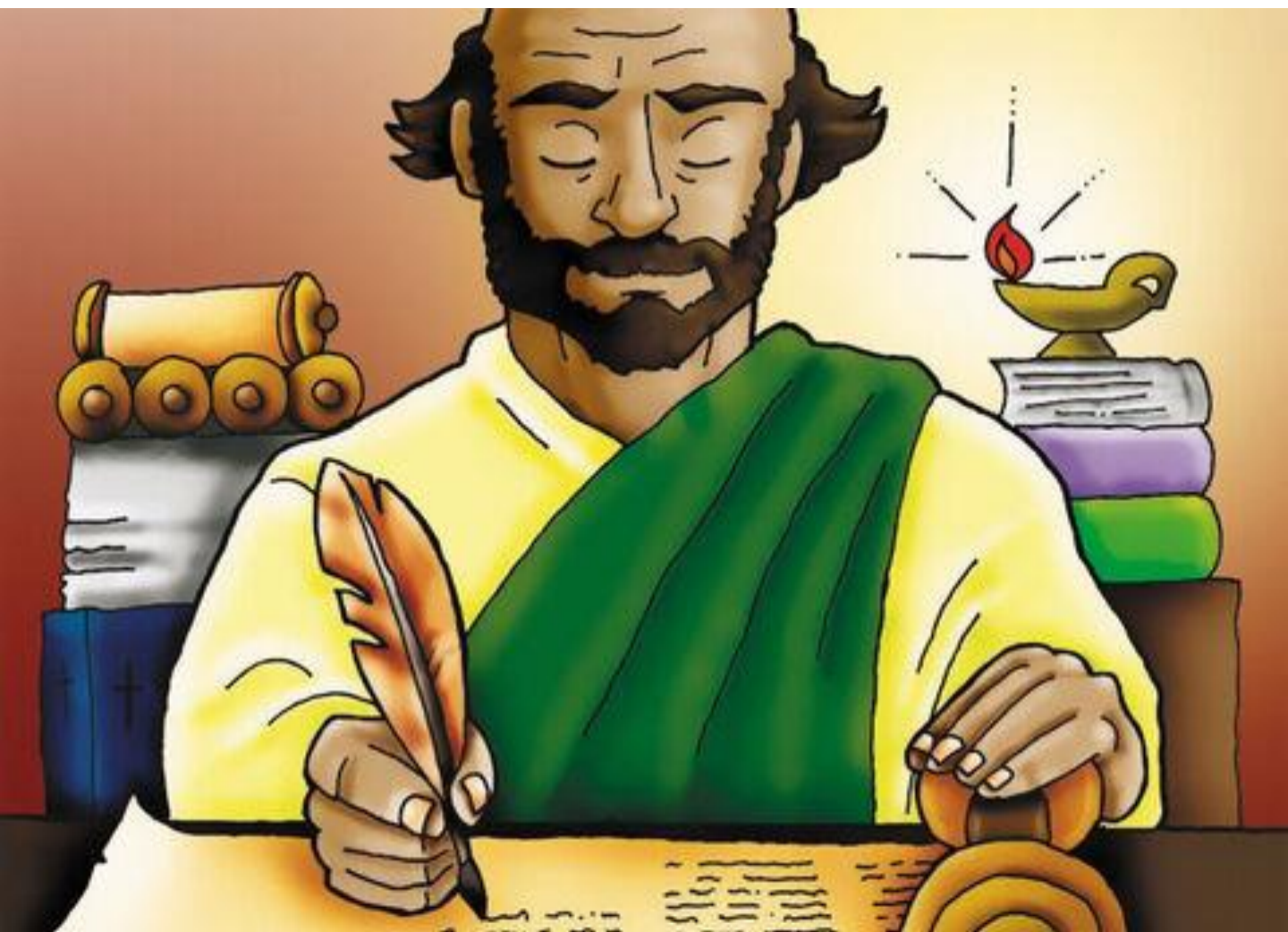


The Bible was given to man by God

The Bible is a collection of 66 books that are the written record of messages God gave to about 40 people whom He chose as His spokesmen. Although the Bible was recorded by men, it was written by God.

2 Timothy 3:16—All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2 Peter 1:21—No prophecy ever came from what some person wanted to say. But people were led by the Holy Spirit and spoke words from God.



God's Word is true and never fails

Psalm 119:89—Your eternal word, O Lord, stands firm in heaven.

Isaiah 40:8—The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever.

Matthew 24:35—Heaven and Earth will pass away, but My Words will by no means pass away.

The Bible works!

A skeptic, talking about the Bible, said that it was quite impossible these days to believe in any book whose author was unknown.

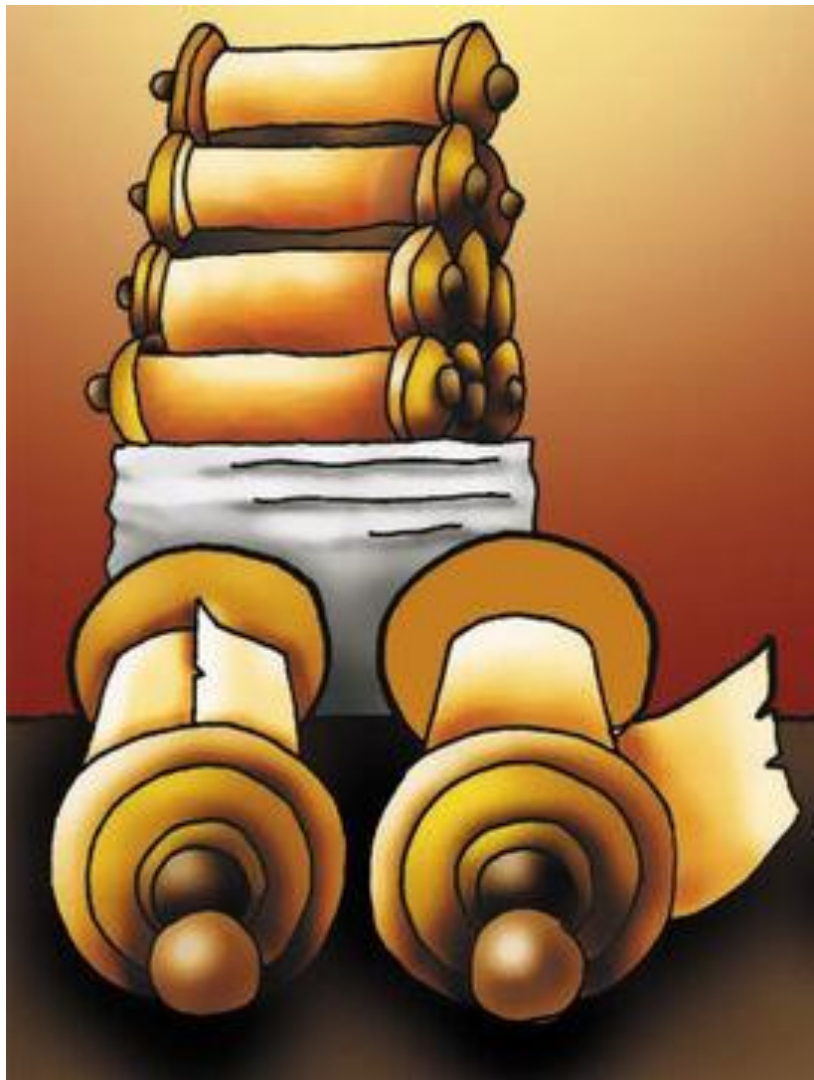
James, who believes in Jesus, asked him if the compiler of the multiplication table was known.

"No," he answered.

"Then, of course, you do not believe it?" asked James.

The skeptic replied, "Oh, yes, I believe in it because it works."

"So does the Bible!" responded James.



The Bible tells us that Jesus is the "Word made flesh."

John 1:1,14—In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 11:3—By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

God has always spoken to people in many ways:

- **through the beauty and wonder of His Creation,**

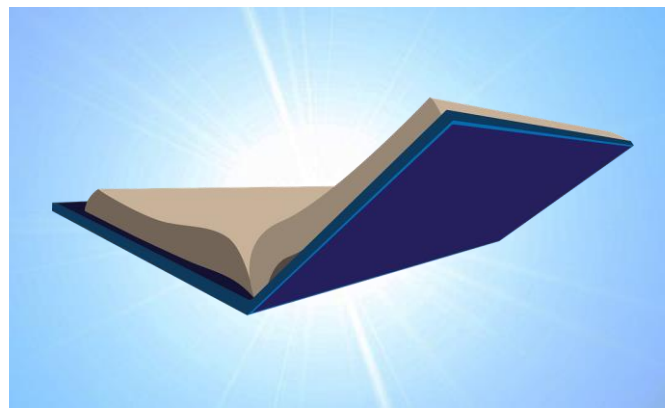


- **through His prophets and messengers,**



- **and through His written Word.**

But the clearest revelation of Himself—of His character, of His Love—is found in His Son, Jesus, Whom the Bible calls "the Word."





Words are the means by which we express ourselves, by which we reveal our thoughts, our feelings, our character.—And Jesus is the means by which God expresses Himself to us. God's most outstanding means of communication with us, the way that He chose to communicate His love to the world, was by His Son, Jesus.

The Bible was written for our benefit

John 19:35—And he [John] who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

1 Corinthians 10:11—These things happened to them [Bible characters] as examples for us. They were written down to warn us.

The Water of Life

Water is the most valuable commodity on earth, outside of life itself, which is why God symbolizes the Word with water, calling it the Water of Life.



It's important to keep the Word

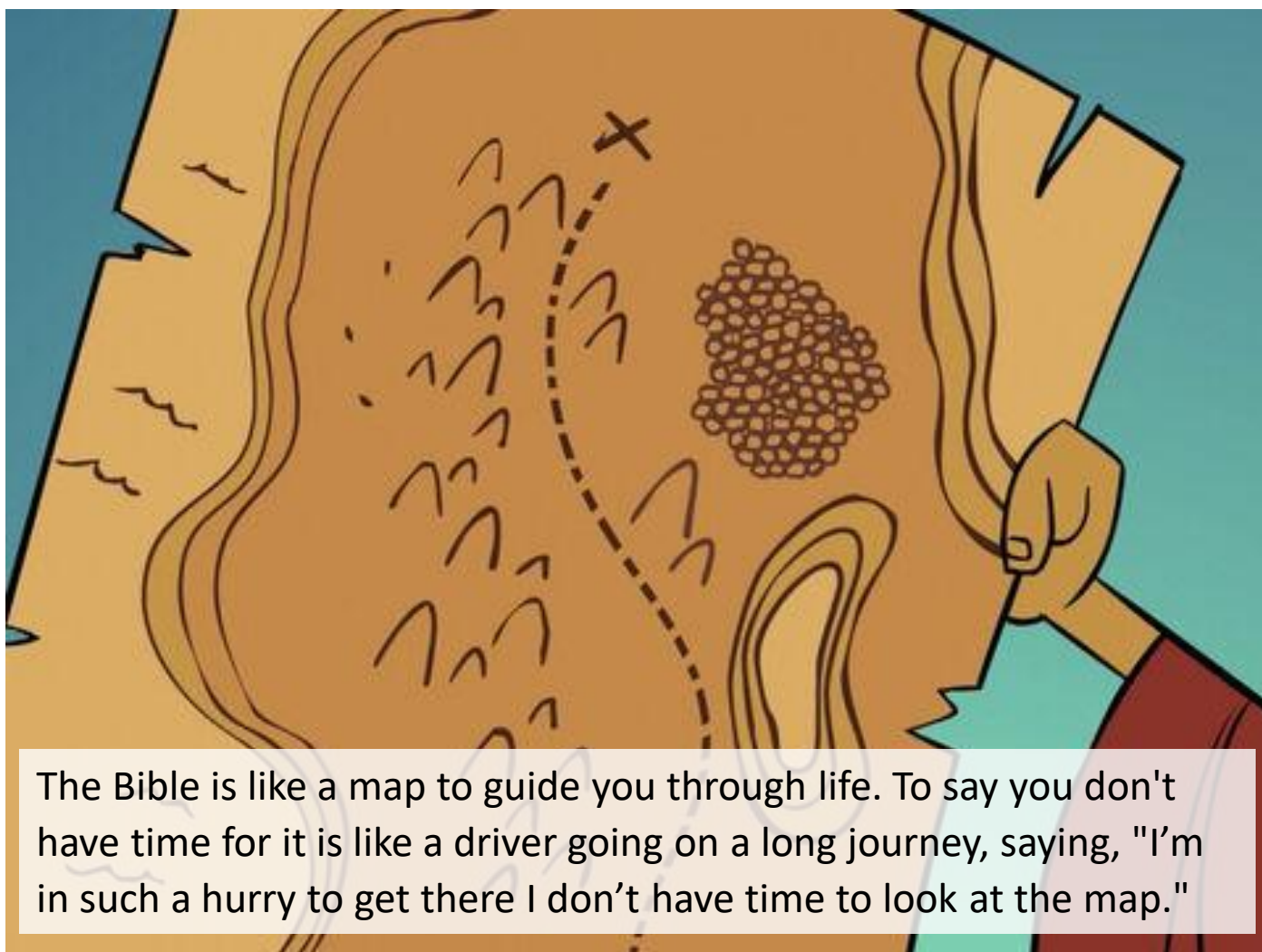
Obedying the Word proves we know and love Jesus. As a result, we receive benefits!

John 8:31-32—Jesus said, "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Luke 11:28—Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!

John 15:7—If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

John 14:15—If you love Me, keep My commandments.



The Bible is like a map to guide you through life. To say you don't have time for it is like a driver going on a long journey, saying, "I'm in such a hurry to get there I don't have time to look at the map."

Benefits of the Word

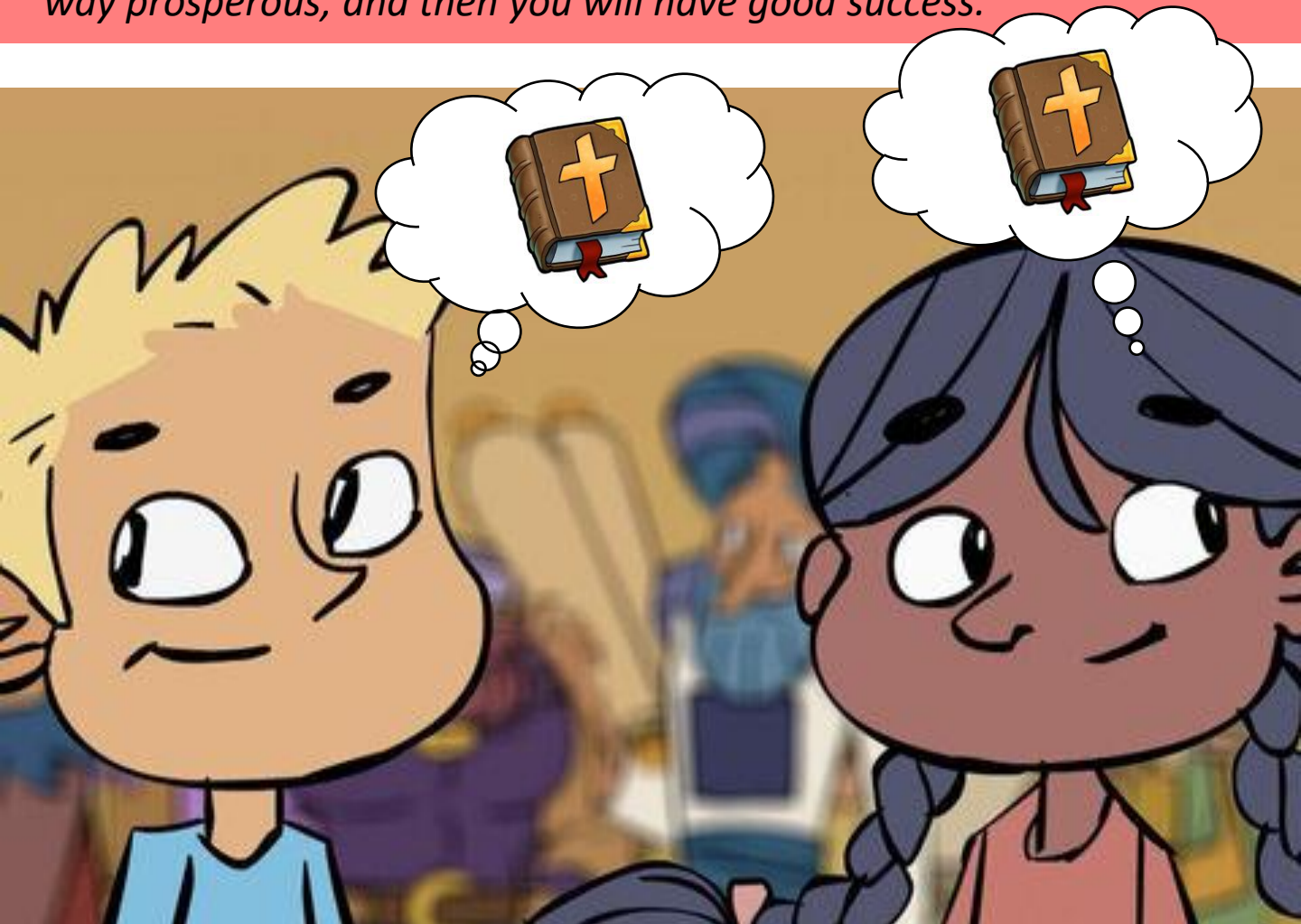
The Word gives us faith, truth, wisdom and strength!

Psalm 19:7—The LORD's teachings are perfect. They give strength to his people. The LORD's rules can be trusted. They help even the foolish become wise.

Romans 10:17—Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Meditating on the Word brings blessings and success:

Joshua 1:8—This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.



The Word cleanses us, heals us, makes us happy, gives us peace!

John 15:3—“You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you.”

Psalms 107:20—He sent His Word and healed them.

Psalms 119:165—Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.

Jeremiah 15:16a—Your Words were found, and I ate them, and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.

How to Read God’s Word

When you sit down to read, the first thing you should do is pray and ask the Lord to bring the Word alive to you by His Holy Spirit. As David prayed,



*Psalms
119:18—Open
my eyes, that I
may see
wondrous
things from
Your law.*

Don't just read—study, question, and apply

2 Timothy 2:15—Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.

If every time you sat down to eat a meal, you gobbled and gulped it down as fast as you possibly could, you wouldn't digest or absorb it nearly as well as if you had eaten it a little more slowly.— Nor would you enjoy it as much!



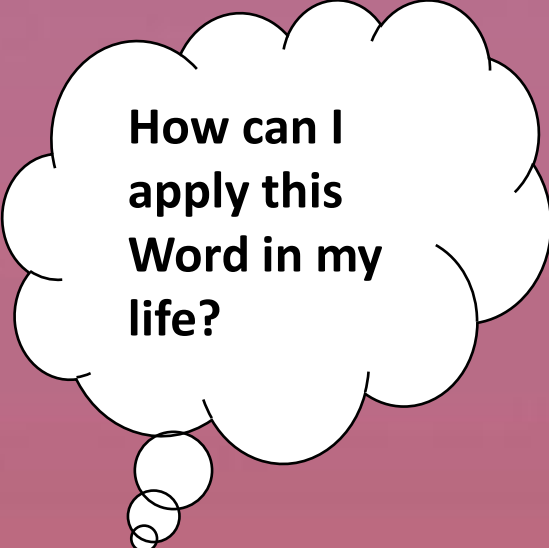
This same principle applies to your spiritual food as well. You can miss a lot of the meaning, the real depth of what the Lord's talking about, unless you stop to think about it and apply the Word to your personal situation, and ask, "How is that true and how does that apply to me?"—

knowing that you can learn even more lessons if you search further and dig deeper.

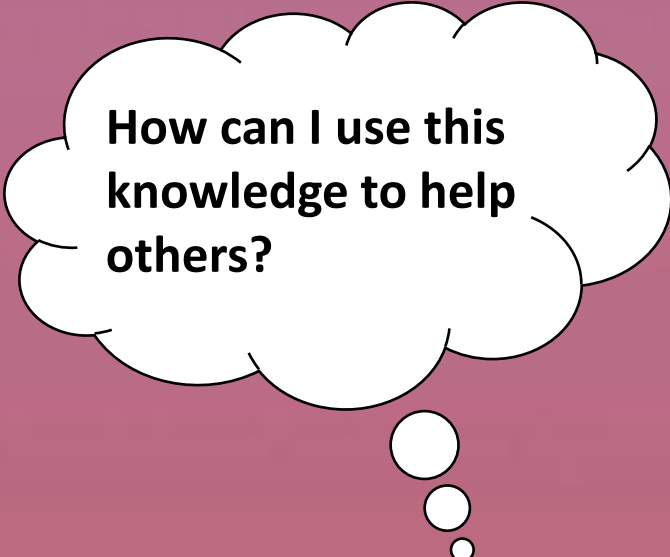
Doers of the Word

James 1:22—But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only.

When you are reading the Word, pray and ask the Lord to help you apply what you are studying and show you specifically what He wants you to do. Ask the Lord to show you:



**How can I
apply this
Word in my
life?**



**How can I use this
knowledge to help
others?**

John 13:17—If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

What to do when you don't understand something

When reading through the Bible, pray for the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you read, but don't worry if you don't understand everything the first time you read it; no one does. Keep at it. The more you read the Word, the more you will understand, and often when going back to reread a certain passage, you'll find new meanings and "treasures" that you hadn't noticed before.

We do not have to understand everything

St. Augustine was once walking by the seashore. He was greatly perplexed about a particular aspect of faith and doctrine. He saw a little boy with a seashell running to the water, filling it and then pouring it into a hole that he had made in the sand.

"What are you doing, my little man?" asked Augustine.

"Oh," said he, "I am trying to put the ocean in this hole!"

Augustine learned his lesson, and as he walked away, he said, "That is what I am trying to do. I am trying to get into this little finite mind of mine things which are infinite." Let us be content to let God know some things that we cannot know.



Now it's up to you to put this into action!

You can think of this as being like a cookery class. We've given you a recipe, but if you don't go home and pull out the ingredients and try to cook it, you'll never find out how delicious a meal you could enjoy!

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