



DAY ONE : WELCOME!

Welcome to our first Bible Study: Authentic Living!

As you go through this, you can either handle each part one day at a time or you can do it all in one evening. Whatever works best for you. I personally like the approach of doing each part one day at a time.

Day 1: Read through the forewords, etc from Candance. Really absorb her words and get mentally prepared to dive deeper!

How do you feel about Candace's introduction?

How do you feel about diving into this study? Nervous? Excited?



DAY 2 : READING DEUTERONOMY

Welcome to Day 2 of this Bible Study!

We are going to start with the first chapter: Seeking God First

Right off the bat, we are putting the focus on putting God first in our lives. This will set the tone for the rest of our journey.

Being that we are reading a bible study, we are doing a good job so far with putting God first! Obviously God means a lot to us and we desire to seek a closer relationship with Him through studies such as this one.

As we move onto the second page we see some verses from Deuteronomy. Before reading it is helpful to understand a little background on this verse. Deuteronomy is the written form of the Farewell Address given by Moses to the Israelite's before they entered the promised land of Canaan.

This was after they were released from Pharaoh's grasp and after they spent 40 years wandering due to their stubbornness.

So now they have gotten past all of that, they finally are able to get to the land that has been promised to them.

I continued to read on in Deuteronomy through Chapter 11, to better understand what is being talked about.

As they are about to enter this land, Moses is making it very clear to them to not forgot who got them there (God) and that they need to not fall back into their sinful ways of creating idols. He is reminding them how enormously important it is that they follow God's commandments if they want to truly inherit this land. If they want to defeat their enemies and have God's favor, they must stay true. They must put God first. A big part of putting God first is to follow the ten commandments that He gave them.

Notes:



DAY 3 : WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

After you finish reading in Deuteronomy, on the third page, there are some key questions to help us put things in perspective in our own lives.

I was stuck on these questions at first, until I broke them down individually and tackled one at a time, then the answers began to flow.

First Question: What are the priorities in your life?

Honestly at first I was stuck, I kind of read it as what should be my priorities in life. Then I started to think, where do I focus all of my time and effort. What things or people do I spend my time on every day.

To answer this I broke down my typical day:

- I wake up around 7AM and get ready for work.
- Then I spend the next 6 hours at work.
- Whenever I have a break I usually post something scriptural to my Social Media pages or create new content.
- I leave work around 2pm and then my focus for the remainder of the day and night is my children, our home and homestead (animals)
- For the remainder of my night I am either keeping the kids entertained with arts and crafts, a movie, games or playing outside or in the pool.
- I have to prepare dinner, I have to clean up the house from the mess of the day, I have to clean up the kitchen
- I feed all the chickens, ducks, rabbits, pigs and cows, ensure they all have plenty of water in this heat, water the garden.
- During the night I try to keep communication with my husband since I only see him 30 minutes or less a day.
- Then its get the kids ready for bed, bathed up, teeth brushed, pajamas on, read stories, read Awana books to my older daughter.
- Once that is done I work on more inspirational and scripture posts, work on my social media accounts, read my bible study, read the bible, then sleep.

Then the whole process starts again the next day.

DAY 3 : WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

So after breaking down my day I was able to clearly identify where my priorities are.

My priorities are on whatever I am spending all of my time on. The answer isn't really where my priorities should be, but where are they actually?

So my final answer looked like this:

God, children, marriage, work, homestead.

These things I give 100% of my time to each and every day.

-I say God first, because I think of God constantly. I pray in my heart and often times out loud constantly. I thank Him, ask for mercy and love constantly.

-After that, my children get my constant devotion. Nearly every moment from the time I get off work until I wake up the next day is devoted to them.

-Then marriage, it is a constant struggle for me. My husband and I are so different and see each other so little. I try to find ways to do things for him, or just send messages letting him know I love him, or calling him through the night at different times just to talk. Praying on it a lot, hoping I can find a way to strengthen it.

- Then work, I do spend 6 hours a day there. I try to put in a good strong effort and be a good employee. It is what pays the bills. I try to get nice clothes on sale and ensure I look my best to represent the company I work for. I think about work when I'm not at work, so work definitely is a priority.

- Lastly the homestead. I count caring for the house in this. I put it last because it is probably my least favorite priority. I don't like the constant cleaning, laundry, dinners, dishes, vacuuming, picking up after everyone, etc. Then caring for the animals can be a pain. The chickens are mean. The cows like to jab me with their horns. To get to the pigs I have to get through the cows. It takes a bit of time watering their troughs. It's hard to watch the kids while caring for the animals. It's a balancing act. But they can earn a profit, so they must be kept and any animal I have will be well cared for but that requires time. I also have to put a lot of focus into the business portion of the homestead including adding new structures for animals, how to market them, taking photos, etc. It all takes time and right now with the summer heat it's just not very fun for me.

So there is my list, God, children, marriage, work and homestead. Those are my daily priorities. Yes I'd like to add others such as helping others but I try to just take advantage of those opportunities as they arise.

Write down your response in your Study Book. If you are comfortable sharing, I would love to hear it! Either way I hope you enjoyed digging deeper today.





DAY 4 : WHY DOES GOD WANT TO BE FIRST?

Now we have the next question:

Why do you think God wants to be first in our lives?

I had to think on this for a bit. Then I thought why is it important for me to put God first?

So this was my answer:

He represents all that is good and holy.

If we focus on Him we will have goodness and holiness in our lives.

He gives us so much, it is only right for us to give him praise and not put our effort into worshipping sinful idols. Idols that represent bad things and will only lead us astray.

On a side note, I want to address Idols:

Most think of idols as a statue or 'god' that someone invented. But I personally believe idols come in many forms.

Idols to me are anything that you invest all of your time in. It is something you idolize. Maybe that something is money, maybe someone spends all of their time at work and away from their family to earn more money. It becomes an obsession in their life and therefore it is idolized before God or anything.

If someone is in a relationship, especially a new one, they may idolize the person they are with. They devote all their time to them. Forgo friendships, forgo church, forgo time with family, they just put all of their time, energy, focus and thoughts into this person and become consumed. Therefore that person is now an idol in their lives.

There are tons of things we can idolize, so it is important that we remember to idolize God first and foremost.

Why do you think God wants to be first in our lives?

Write down your response in your Study Book. If you are comfortable sharing, I would love to hear it! Either way I hope you enjoyed digging deeper today.



DAY 5 : BENEFITS OF OBEYING GOD

Now we have the next question:

What might be some benefits of obeying and following God.

After answering this I thought Wow! I really filled the page up on this portion. I guess it was personal for me and you'll see why in my response.

Answer: I have personally experienced time and again when I stray, when I sin and do not obey, it leads me to nothing but heartache. So so much heartache.

Pretty much every bad thing that has happened in my life was my own fault. It wasn't anything I could blame on God or get mad at Him for. Heavens knows he tried time and time again to warn me. He had the Holy Spirit speak to my heart, but I ignored it. I fell into temptation. And it only hurt me and others every single time.

Every bad thing in my life was due to my own poor choices. Due to my disobedience.

It cost me relationships, money, loved ones, jobs. My disobedience has always cost me deep.

If only I had listened. If only I did what God had put in my heart. If only I had obeyed. But me doing things my way, not doing what God asked, never ever worked.

I would be much more prosperous today, probably have much more fulfilling relationships and joy if only I had obeyed God. Now all I can try to do is rebuild and get it right the next time and stave off that temptation.

What do you think are some benefits of obeying and following God?

Write down your response in your Study Book. If you are comfortable sharing, I would love to hear it! Either way I hope you enjoyed digging deeper today.



DAY 6 : HOW CAN YOU SEEK GOD FIRST?

On the fourth page of this section of the study you will see a beautiful photo (it really makes me want to go to the beach!) with a thought provoking saying:

"Seeking God first confirms our dependence on Him".

I am not really good with these kind of phrases, I always have to re-read it several times to try to grasp what is being said.

This was no exception. I read it and thought huh?

Then I realized we need to be dependent on God. Seeking him first helps to confirm our dependence on Him. If you depend on someone you generally go to them first for everything.

I will use a personal example:

Let's take the animals at my farm. I have zero medical knowledge, but my husband does. So if anything happens with an animal I immediately run to Him. I am dependent on his knowledge to help me. I am dependent on his skills. I know I cannot get through the situation without his help. I can try on my own, but the results probably won't be good.

This same principle applies with being dependent on God.

We should not feel we can fix every situation on our own.

We shouldn't feel we can go through life without Him. That we have it all together on our own. Instead, we should feel dependent on God.

We should seek Him first to solve a problem.

Something like *"God this issue just came up in my life, what do I do? What do you want me to do? Please speak to my heart God. Please let my heart be receptive to hear your words. Please grant me wisdom so that I may know what to do"*.

It should be our knee jerk reaction to go seek God first. Seeking Him confirms our dependence on Him.



DAY 6 : HOW CAN YOU SEEK GOD FIRST?

So this leads us to the question on the next page:

What are some practical steps you can take to seek God first in your life?

Think of ways you can try to seek out God first and not necessarily rely on your own knowledge to fix issues.

Here are my responses:

1. Pray to Him often
2. Consult Him first on decisions
3. Pray to Him for guidance
4. Pray to Him for wisdom
5. Find ways to share His love and message with others
6. Show kindness and love to others (exemplifying God's main commandment to love one another)
7. Put God first in all that we do, let Him be the first thought in our mind, the first person we seek

What do you think are practical steps you can take to seek God first in your life?

Write your responses in your study book.

Lastly, on this page, **What is your biggest Takeaway?**

Answer this at the bottom of the page in your study.

After going through this Bible Study, thus far, what have you gotten out of it?

My response:

It is very important to put God first. Don't make idols out of earthly things.

Don't put money first, don't put our pride first. Don't put sporting events, activities or even work first before God. Put God first. He will care for you. He promised to meet all of our needs if we put Him first, and God does not lie, so seek Him first!

Friend, I hope you enjoyed this section of the Bible Study!

I can't wait to dive into the next section with you.

I hope you found this to be beneficial and that it helped to enrich your relationship with God.

If you have any feedback please feel free to share!

I'm all ears! I'm learning how to do this right along with you!