



**LOVE THE WORD. LEARN THE WORD.
LIVE THE WORD.**



saddleback church

A NOTE

from

RICK WARREN

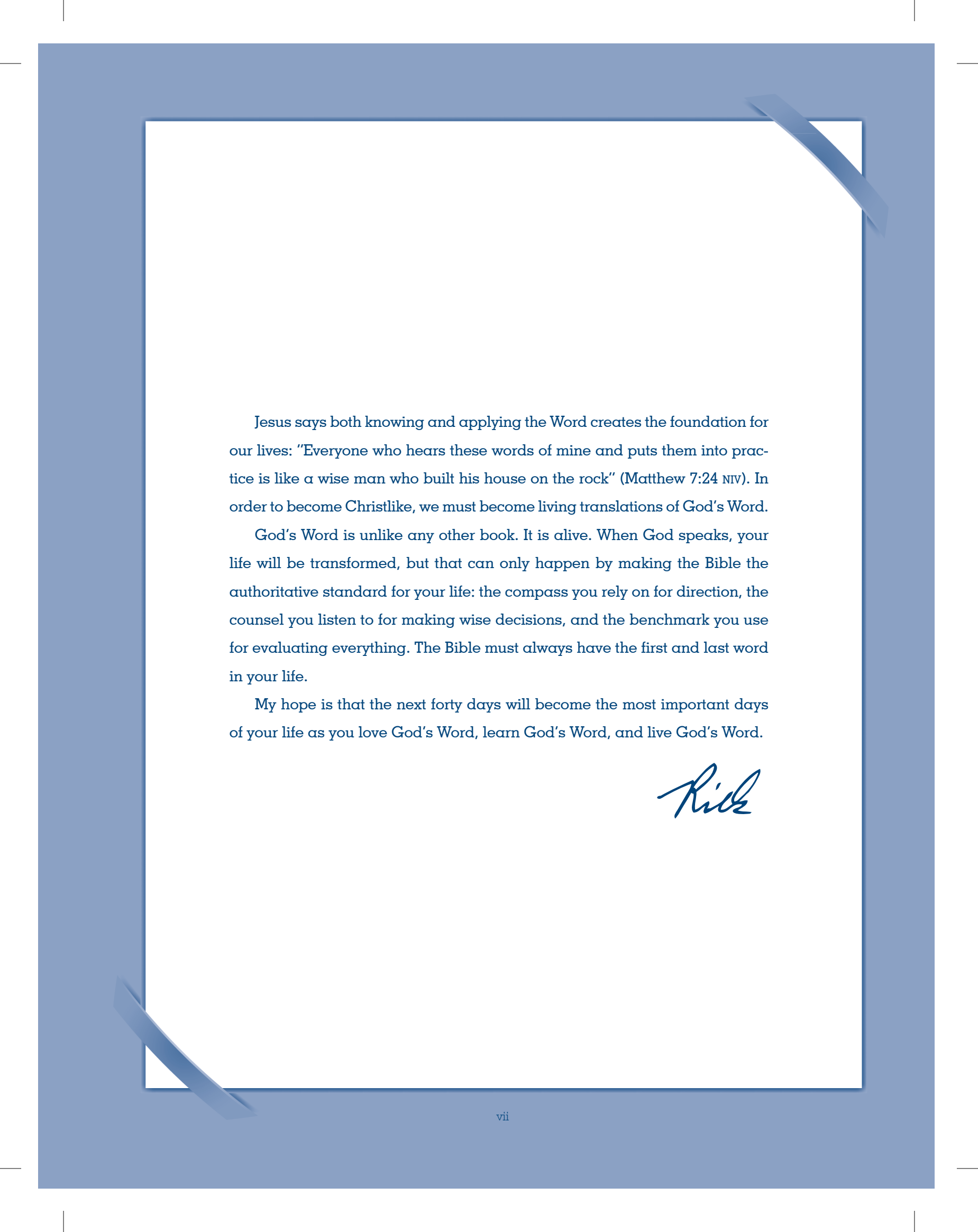


Welcome to *40 Days in Word*. I am so glad you have decided to join me for this journey together. No other habit can do more to transform your life and make you more like Jesus than to study and act upon God's Word. To be a healthy disciple of Jesus, feeding on God's Word must be your first priority. Jesus called it "abiding." He said, "If you abide in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine" (John 8:31 NASB).

By the end of our forty days together, my goal is to help you . . .

- Love the Word of God like you've never loved it before
- Learn the Word of God like you've never learned it before
- Live the Word of God like you've never lived it before

God's Word is not meant just to inform you, but to transform you. God never meant for Bible study to simply increase our knowledge. Receiving, reading, researching, remembering, and reflecting on the Bible is useless if we fail to put God's Word into practice. The apostle James says if we want our lives to be blessed by God we must become "doers of the word" (James 1:22–25 KJV).



Jesus says both knowing and applying the Word creates the foundation for our lives: “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock” (Matthew 7:24 NIV). In order to become Christlike, we must become living translations of God’s Word.

God’s Word is unlike any other book. It is alive. When God speaks, your life will be transformed, but that can only happen by making the Bible the authoritative standard for your life: the compass you rely on for direction, the counsel you listen to for making wise decisions, and the benchmark you use for evaluating everything. The Bible must always have the first and last word in your life.

My hope is that the next forty days will become the most important days of your life as you love God’s Word, learn God’s Word, and live God’s Word.

Rich

UNDERSTANDING

Your

WORKBOOK

Here is a brief explanation of the features of this workbook.

Looking Ahead / Catching Up: You will open each meeting by briefly discussing a question or two that will help focus everyone's attention on the subject of the lesson.

Memory Verse: Each week you will find a key Bible verse for your group to memorize together. If someone in the group has a different translation, ask them to read it aloud so the group can get a bigger picture of the meaning of the passage.

Video Lesson: There is a **Video Lesson** for the group to watch together each week. Fill in the blanks in the lesson outlines as you watch the video and be sure to refer back to these outlines during your discussion time.

Discovery Questions: Each video segment is complemented by several questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. There is no reason to rush through the answers. Give everyone ample opportunity to share their thoughts. If you don't get through all of the discussion questions, that's okay.

Putting It Into Practice: *The Micah 6:8 Assignment* is where the rubber meets the road. We don't want to be just hearers of the Word. We also need to be doers of the Word (James 1:22). *The Micah 6:8 Assignment* is an application exercise that will help your group put the Word of God into practice.

Living on Purpose: This section contains your daily quiet time instructions that will enable you to practice the study methods Pastor Rick is teaching each week. By following this plan in the next 40 days you will read and meditate on *The Book of Philippians*, *The Gospel of Mark*, *The Book of James*, and Psalm 1.



Prayer Direction: At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

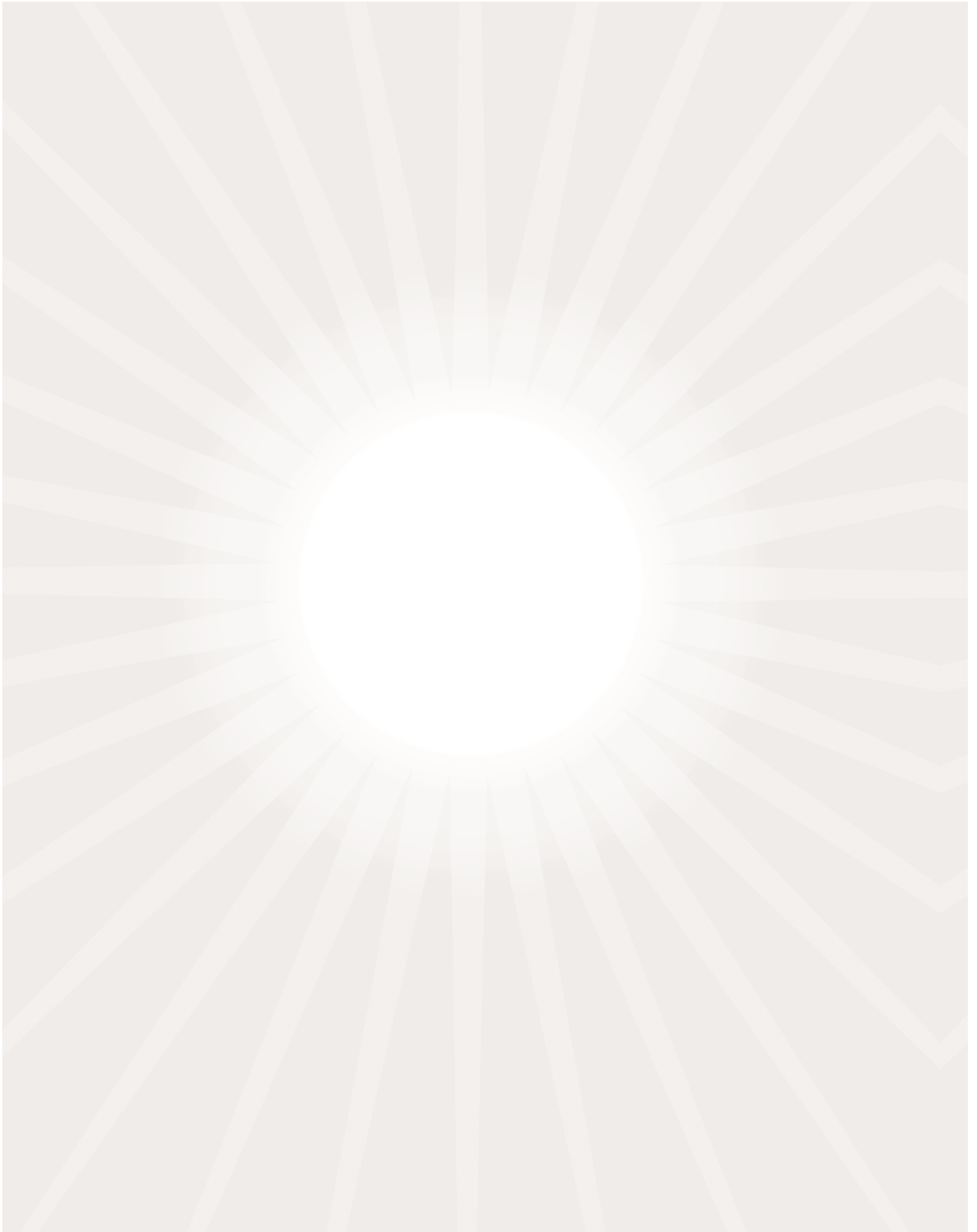
Diving Deeper: If you want to go deeper in your personal Bible study, read the materials recommended in this section. You will find them in the back of your workbook.

Journal Pages: There are seven **Journal Pages** at the end of each session in your workbook to help you with your **Living on Purpose** daily devotions.

A Tip for the Host

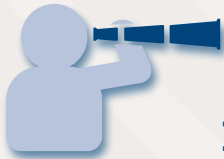
The group discussion material is meant to be your servant, not your master. The point is not to race through the sessions; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives. Nor is it necessary to "go around the circle" before you move on to the next question. Give people the freedom to speak, but don't insist on it. Your group will enjoy deeper, more open sharing and discussion if people don't feel pressured to speak up.





Session One

PRONOUNCE IT!



LOOKING AHEAD

- If this is a new group, take a few minutes to introduce yourselves. Be sure to review the **Small Group Guidelines** on page 192 of this workbook.
- What are your first memories of the Bible?

- What are you hoping to get out of this study?

MEMORY VERSE

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Colossians 3:16a (NIV)



Watch the **Video Lesson** now and take notes in your outline. Refer back to the outline during your group discussion.

PRONOUNCE IT!

The ultimate purpose of the Bible is not to inform us, it is to transform us. God doesn't want us to just be hearers of the Word, he wants us to be doers of the Word—living gospels—sharing the good news of Jesus Christ not only in our words, but in our lives.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NIV)

The ultimate purpose of the Bible is to _____ .

FIVE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY

- Ask the _____ .
- Write down _____ .
- Don't just interpret it, _____ .

I only believe the parts of the Bible that _____ .

The real problem for most of us is not with interpreting difficult passages, but with obeying the passages we do understand.

- Study it _____ .
- Read it _____ .

You can summarize the devotional study method in one word:

_____ .

“Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.

Psalms 119:97 (NIV)

My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.

Psalms 119:148 (NIV)

Biblical meditation is essentially thought digestion. Another word for biblical meditation is “rumination.” Ruminating is what a cow does when it chews its cud. Scriptural meditation is reading a passage over and over again, then thinking about it and concentrating on it in different ways until you have digested its meaning.

THE "PRONOUNCE IT!" METHOD OF BIBLE MEDITATION



Read the verse over and over again, but emphasize each word in the verse one at a time. After each word, stop and write down your thoughts, even if it's just a word or two.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Colossians 3:16a (NIV)

LET the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Let the **WORD** of Christ dwell in you richly.

Let the word of **CHRIST** dwell in you richly.

Let the word of Christ **DWELL** in you richly.

Let the word of Christ dwell **IN** you richly

Let the word of Christ dwell in **YOU** richly.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you **RICHLY**.

Now look at your life through the lens of this verse. How does this truth apply to your life today? What are you going to do about it? After you have thought about an application, write it down. Then finish your time by talking to God about what he said to you in his Word.

Your time in daily devotions is not just for your benefit. It's also for the benefit of others.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

A Note to Your Group

You don't have to answer every question. Be sure to save enough time to discuss the **Putting It Into Practice** section of the study.

- As a group, practice the **Pronounce It!** method of Bible meditation using the first phrase of Colossians 3:15 (NIV):

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

Colossians 3:15 (NIV)

- Which word has the most meaning for you? Why did you choose that word?

- How does this verse apply to your life right now? What do you need to do or stop doing in order to more fully experience the rulership of Christ's peace?

- Your time in daily devotions is not just for your benefit. It's also for the benefit of others. With whom do you need to share the lessons you just learned about the peace of Christ?

SESSION ONE: PRONOUNCE IT!

In the next 40 days, your small group will select, plan, and initiate a group outreach project that we are calling ***The Micah 6:8 Assignment***. This might be a church-wide project involving all of the small groups in your congregation, or a project just for your group to take on. The nature and scope of the project is up to you. It could be a food drive for a local food bank, a clothing drive for the needy in your community, or volunteering at a homeless shelter. It could involve an orphan care project, an elderly care project, or partnering with a prison ministry. You don't have to decide today, but get started talking about what it could be.

Your project will become a major focus for your group over the next 40 days. Here are your next steps:

1. Recruit a group member to be your Micah 6:8 Champion. Your Champion will help keep everybody moving forward with your project.

Our Micah 6:8 Champion is: _____

2. Have the Micah 6:8 Champion go to **www.40daysintheword.com** and click on ***The Micah 6:8 Assignment*** link to find examples and ideas for a project for your group to undertake. Your Champion can report back to the group at your next meeting.



LIVING ON PURPOSE

During *40 Days in the Word*, you will be reading about one chapter a day in the Bible. You may read at your own pace, but we suggest you apply each week's method of Bible meditation to that day's recommended verse or passage.

This week in your daily quiet time, read *The Book of Philippians*. It's just four chapters long. There is no need to rush your way through the book. Remember, it's not how much of the Bible you get through every day; it's how deeply the Bible gets through to you. So take your time.

As you read each day, practice the **Pronounce It!** method using the seven recommended verses below from Philippians. Be sure to write down your thoughts and observations about how each verse applies to your life. You will find seven **Journal Pages** at the end of this session in your workbook to help you with your devotions.

DAY 1: *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

DAY 2: *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.*

Philippians 1:27a (NIV)

DAY 3: *For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.*

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

DAY 4: *... I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.*

Philippians 3:12b (NIV)

DAY 5: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

Philippians 4:6 (NIV)



DAY 6: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

DAY 7: *My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

If you miss a day, don't let that discourage you. Just pick up with the current day and keep moving forward. Don't let yesterday's famine rob today of its feast.

PRAYER DIRECTION

- Take a few minutes to pray for each other's prayer requests. We suggest you recruit one of your group members to record prayer requests and answers to prayer, using the **Small Group Prayer and Praise Report** on page 196 of this workbook. Any volunteers?
- Pray for God's direction for your group's **Micah 6:8 Assignment**.





DIVING DEEPER

If you have questions about the Bible itself—such as: *How do we know the Bible came from God?* or *How do I know I can trust the Bible?* or *How do we know we have the right books?*—read the bonus chapter titled, **Foundations: The Bible** on page 125 of this workbook.


GREAT RESOURCES FOR YOUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE

Be sure to visit www.40daysintheword.com where you can:

- Register for Pastor Rick's Daily Hope email devotions. They're free!
- Download the free daily audio devotions for *40 Days in the Word*.
- Learn more about beginning, intermediate, and advanced tools, links, and resources for in-depth Bible study.

Text the word "VERSE" to 313131 to receive a free* daily Bible verse sent to your cell phone every day for one year.

*We do not charge for this service, but your cell phone carrier's normal text charges will apply.



Pronounce It!
Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word to write down your thoughts.



Apply It!

How does this verse apply to your life and what will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .





Pronounce It!

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Philippians 1:27a (NIV)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word to write down your thoughts.




Apply It!

How does this verse apply to your life and what will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .



 ***Pronounce It!***
For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word to write down your thoughts.



Apply It!

How does this verse apply to your life and what will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .





Pronounce It!

. . . I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Philippians 3:12b (NIV)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word to write down your thoughts.




Apply It!

How does this verse apply to your life and what will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .





Pronounce It!
Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word to write down your thoughts.



Apply It!

How does this verse apply to your life and what will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .





Pronounce It!

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word to write down your thoughts.




Apply It!

How does this verse apply to your life and what will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .



 **Pronounce It!**
My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

Read the entire verse several times, stopping after each word to write down your thoughts.



Apply It!

How does this verse apply to your life and what will you do about it?

Your prayer . . .

