

WHY
A YEAR
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YEAR OF
BIBLICAL
LITERACY



CALVARYSLO

Biblical literacy rates have dropped over the years even though general literacy rates have risen. If we do not read the Bible, then we will not know it. And if we do not know the Bible, we cannot know and follow God in his Way that is revealed in it. The Year of Biblical Literacy (YOBL) is an endeavor dedicated to immersing ourselves in scripture so that we understand and experience the presence, character, and way of Jesus.

THE FOUR LAYERS OF YEAR OF BIBLICAL LITERACY (YOBL)

The year was designed in four layers: **personal, communal, worshipful, and educational.**

The layers are meant to work together, providing a more complete context and clarity throughout the year. Below we have provided a brief outline of how each layer interacts within our life as we go through God's word using the YOBL website. To reach the website you can use the link on the Calvary SLO website under the ministries tab or: www.bible.realitysf.com

1. Personal

The personal layer is about learning the Scriptures through a daily commitment to opening your heart and mind to God through the spiritual discipline of Bible reading.

Reading Scripture

The reading plan usually consists of a few chapters of a given book of the Bible + 1 Psalm. Most of the daily readings take around 30 minutes to finish. For some this can be an overwhelming amount of reading at once and might prefer to break up their reading throughout the day, reading one chapter in the morning and one chapter in the evening. It is important to find the pace that works best for you given your schedule, commitments and the natural limitations of your life. The point of YOBL is not to rush through Scripture to say you finished in a year but to become more biblically literate, and thus, more formed by the Bible in your relationship with God. If this means taking it slower (or faster) than the reading plan suggests, please do so. Also, some have found it helpful listening to an audio Bible through free apps like, YouVersion.

Watching Read Scripture Videos

The Bible Project has created beautifully illustrated introductory videos to every book in the Bible as well as some of the major themes in Scripture on the website. These videos give you a roadmap of what is going on in a given book, the historical context, and what to look for or notice while you're reading. The videos are meant to be both an introduction and a reference to supplement your reading. In some ways, the videos are the easiest part of YOBL to incorporate and keep up with in your day to day life.

2. Communal

The communal layer is about experiencing Scripture together in weekly Community Group (or small groups).

The Bible is a communal book. It was meant to be read and discussed in community with others. The community group, or small group, material is meant to help distill a week's reading into a time of connection, prayer, and discussion with others who are also going through YOBL. If you are not part of a community group going through YOBL, look on the Calvary SLO website under community which will have all the groups listed with contact info. If none of the listed groups fit your time schedule, we suggest finding 2-3 friends who could commit to journeying with you and able to meet together on a regular basis.

Our goal is not just intellectual knowledge but also true and beautiful connection with Jesus and your community.

You can read in more detail the goal of the material and a breakdown of the major elements in the User's Guide to the Communal Layer on the YOBL website. www.bible.realitysf.com

3.Worshipful

The worshipful layer is about experiencing God in Scripture, through worship at a Sunday gathering and within your daily life throughout the week.

Throughout the year some of the the Sunday teachings will parallel what the church is reading on a weekly basis. By doing this, we will be able to provide our church with greater context to the story of God in parts of the Bible that are often overlooked, taken out of context, or dismissed. If, as you are reading during the week, you come across a part of the Bible that you wish to learn more about or to hear a teaching on, take a look to see if there is an associated sermon on the website. These can provide more clarity and wisdom in better understanding of God and His word so that we can offer ourselves to God as our reasonable act of worship.

4.Educational

The educational layer is about expounding upon key themes in the Bible to learn or relearn the context of the Bible.

On the website www.bible.realitysf.com, the Year of Biblical Literacy Lecture Series is comprised of 8 different lectures by different experts, theologians and bible scholars. Ranging from questions about the intersection of science and faith to the problem of evil, to race and diversity, to Christianity in the public sphere. These lectures are meant to be a more academic unpacking of some of the hardest questions and topics to understand in the Bible by leaders in the field. We hope you will enjoy watching them and grappling with the questions and knowledge they leave you with.