

SOAK UP GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE:

Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." (John 4: 13-14)

MATERIALS LIST:

(1) Potting soil

MAIN MESSAGE:

When we read and study the Bible, we have to be absorbing what God is saying to us. Being a Bible reader is not the same as being a Bible student. The difference is that a Bible student is trying to soak up as much knowledge as he/she possibly can, because they know there is a day coming when they are going to have to take a test on what they have learned.

SONG: "Give Me the Bible"

LESSON:

If you have ever tried to grow something in a garden, then you know there is more to it than just planting a seed in some dirt and giving it water every once in a while. My father was a farmer, and I never did understand why he spent so much time studying the dirt. He had probes that he used to collect dirt samples. He had bottles of chemicals that he would mix with the dirt to see how it reacted. He would even get a handful of dirt and smell it. Every time I tried it, it always smelled the same, LIKE DIRT. But my dad understood that it was more than just dirt, it was soil. Soil is a mixture of rock, minerals and organic matter. If the mixture is not just right, the seeds that are planted in it will have a hard time growing.

Have you ever seen a bag of potting soil that you can buy at the store? When you open it up, you notice right away how dark and rich the soil is, but you also notice something else that stands out in this mixture of materials. Do you see all of the little white things that look like tiny rocks? Those are a special kind of mineral called vermiculite. This mineral does something very important in the soil. It is actually a rock that soaks up a lot of water. You have seen what happens to a plant that doesn't get enough water; it withers and dies. So when you water your plants, the vermiculite holds on to extra water that the plants can use at a later time when the rest of the soil has become dry.

Do you have a heart of vermiculite? In other words, when you are reading God's word, have you prepared your heart to be ready to soak up all of the wisdom and knowledge that God is giving to you? Having a heart of "good soil" (Luke 8:15) is what makes it possible to "receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). The more of God's word we have stored in our hearts, the easier it will be to avoid temptation and to withstand the difficult struggles in our life. Jesus even tells us that if we drink from the well that He provides, we will never be spiritually thirst ever again. Don't just read it. Soak it up.

PRAYER: Help us to always have soft and open hearts that will absorb the truth of Your word so we are prepared for anything we will face in our lives.