Foreword to Chapter-a-Day Devotional

Why study a chapter of the Bible each day, without a formal Bible Study?

In 2016, our church read through the entire Bible together as our pastors preached through key texts illustrating Christ’s presence from the first chapter of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation. As we entered 2017, I wasn’t sure what God was directing me to do during my quiet time. I’d read through the Bible numerous times over the past 25 years, in various translations and using an archaeological study bible, a chronological study, and a variety of bible studies. For about a month and a half, I floundered, neglecting my time with the Lord as I wondered where to begin.

Finally, convicted that I was not spending time in God’s Word daily as I had been over the previous year, I committed to simply begin again. I wanted to move slowly through His Word, digesting it thoroughly and milking as much understanding as I could from each chapter, so I started reading one chapter each day. I searched for the context and what it meant to the audience who first received it, and I prayed over what God was saying to me, at this point in my walk with Him, in light of my circumstances or current events, through each chapter.

I began journaling what I was hearing from the Lord and then began sharing these journal entries online on Facebook. Friends began sharing the posts, commenting on how God had used them to encourage them, and following my entries regularly. Then they began suggesting that I should turn them into a devotional book.

Certainly, this was never my intent when I set out to renew my own spiritual discipline of time in God’s Word, but I’m so thankful for the insights He has illuminated to me and the ability to share those with others.

The key lesson I want readers to gain from this devotional is that God speaks through His Word and He speaks to all of His followers. I appreciate you reading this, but I want you to know that just as God gave me understanding and insight into His Word and what it meant for me, day by day, He desires to do the same for you. Although I’ve been a follower of Christ for more than twenty-five years, a pastor’s wife, a bible study leader, and a Sunday school teacher, I have no formal theological training. This devotional is not intended to provide you with the best possible answers, but to share the answers God gave me as I studied His Word and to encourage you to search the scriptures and ask God to draw you closer through them.

To that end, the instructions are simple:  
1. Pray for God to show you what He desires you to glean from the chapter.  
2. Read the chapter.  
3. Read what God showed me.  
4. Record any insights God gives you.  
5. Apply those insights to your day.  
  
Studying the Bible really is just that simple.

Thanks for joining me on this journey!

Felicia Bridges