

BIBLICAL

a four-week Bible study for women

DISCERNMENT

heidistjohn.com

Hello sweet women,

Thank you so much for joining me for the past four weeks. I hope you have been encouraged to grow and mature in your walk with God. I have been so encouraged by your participation!

I've spent the past four weeks talking about *Biblical Discernment in an Unbiblical Age*. This week, I'll be taking it a step further, talking about becoming Biblically *literate* and why it's so important that we "study to show ourselves approved unto God."

I didn't cover this in my podcast, but in the book of Amos, people who experienced a "famine of hearing the words of the Lord" are portrayed as undergoing divine judgment. Amos paints a picture of people without access to God's revelation searching for a message from God like desperate people – hungry and dehydrated – in search of food and water (Amos 8:11-12). In Amos they want it, but are not permitted it. Today, although we have almost unlimited access, we often don't care or desire it.

One of the subtle disadvantages of living in a free society is that it is easy to forget that our salvation was a costly one: it cost Jesus everything. It's easy to become lukewarm. It is my prayer that we will all guard against becoming lukewarm, and instead, hunger for a deeper relationship with God. One of the ways we avoid being lukewarm is to know and give honor to the teachings of Christ. By "honor," I mean, to obey it—to take it seriously. We do this by learning and studying sound doctrine. I'll be devoting some time to this in this week's study as well.

As study God's Word this week, I encourage you to start praying about encouraging others to be in the Word of God every day. Even mothers with young children can take the time to learn. Young moms, I encourage you to read out of a Children's Bible with your little ones—and ask God to use it. He will! God blesses the reading and study of His Word. Whatever we offer in faith, He blesses.

Those women who are not taking care of little ones 24/7: you have a wonderful opportunity to go a little deeper. Studying the Bible takes time and commitment, but it's worth it!

God has good things ahead for you as you study His Word and pray for His direction and wisdom!

You are loved,

heidistjohn

BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT

a four-week Bible study for women
heidistjohn.com

WEEK FOUR - STUDENT GUIDE

MAIN SCRIPTURES: 1 Timothy 4:6; 2 Timothy 4:2-3; Titus 1:9; 2:1

Podcast URL: <http://heidistjohn.com/podcast/bible-study-biblical-discernment-week-four>



What is Biblical literacy?

,



What are your observations of most Christians today when it comes to knowledge of the Bible?



Would you agree that there is a need for greater Biblical literacy among Believers today? Explain your answer.



Dr. Albert Mohler said you can “trace Biblical illiteracy to the absence of Biblical preaching and teaching in our churches and homes.” Do you agree? Why or why not?



Write 1 Timothy 4:6:



According to Paul, how do we become worthy servants of the Lord Jesus?

,

BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT

a four-week Bible study for women
heidistjohn.com

WEEK FOUR - STUDENT GUIDE

MAIN SCRIPTURES: 1 Timothy 4:6; 2 Timothy 4:2-3; Titus 1:9; 2:1



Read Genesis 3:4

In the podcast, I say that we can almost hear the voice of the serpent in the Garden of Eden. What am I comparing it to?



When did you become a Christian? Describe how you came to say "yes" to God's invitation of Salvation.



Describe how you've grown in your faith since you accepted Christ.

3 Reasons Why Being Biblically literate is so important



Read Romans 10:17

reason one:

Knowing the Word is necessary to bringing about our faith.



Read and fill in the blanks for John 20:31b

But these _____ so that you may _____ that Jesus is Christ, the Son of God, and that _____ you may have _____ as his disciples.

Again, we see that knowing the written Word is necessary for faith.
God wants us to have life as His disciples!

BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT

a four-week Bible study for women
heidistjohn.com

WEEK FOUR - STUDENT GUIDE

Let's talk about this:

why is doctrine important for christian life?

reason two:

Knowing the Word is necessary if we want to **GROW** in our understanding of God's character.

 Look up these verses and fill in the blanks:
John 17:17 _____ them by your _____ which is _____.

 What does sanctify mean? (it's okay to Google it!)

 How would you describe your attitude toward growing in the Word?

 1 Peter 2:2 says we are supposed to be growing. Are you growing? How do you know?

 What does it look like to CRAVE "spiritual milk?"

Think about it: What are you craving?

reason three:

 **Biblical literacy is necessary for guarding true doctrine**

In Titus 1:5 Paul begins to give the qualifications for elders. Read this passage. List some of the qualifications for those who want to serve God.

One of those qualifications is holding fast to "sound doctrine."

 Look up the definition of "doctrine." What does it mean?

BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT

a four-week Bible study for women
heidistjohn.com

WEEK FOUR - STUDENT GUIDE



Write Titus 1:9



What does this verse tell you about the importance of sound doctrine?

final thoughts:

biblical discernment and sound doctrine: inseparable

Scripture plainly teaches that we must be sound in the faith. In other words, doctrine is important. It is basic to the Christian life. It matters. If we want to be Biblically discerning, we must be Biblically literate. This includes studying and holding fast to sound doctrine.

"If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing" (1 Timothy 6:3-4)

If we can "advocate" for a "different" doctrine, we can know with certainty that there is a correct doctrine and an incorrect doctrine. Sound, biblical doctrine is a necessary part of growing in true wisdom and authentic faith. The attitude that dismisses doctrine as unimportant or unnecessary to the faith cannot legitimately be called faith at all, even if it masquerades as Christianity. We **MUST** know why we believe what we believe.

God holds us accountable for what we believe as well as how we think about the truth He has revealed. All Scripture testifies to the fact that God wants us to know and understand the truth. He wants us to be able to discern right from wrong—and He has given us His Holy Spirit to help us. We are instructed to think, meditate, and above all, to be discerning. This is God's heart for every Believer.

A TIME FOR PRAYER

Pray that God's people would be moved to study the Bible. Pray that we would have hearts and minds that are ready to give an answer for the hope the lies within us.
(1 Peter 3:15)