



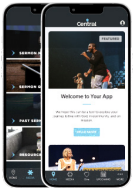
Erased From Scripture

March 2, 2025

KEY SCRIPTURES:

2 Timothy 3:16

Psalms 119:9-16



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1. How would you describe the way you typically read any other book? How do you think the way you read Scripture has been influenced by your other reading habits?
2. What are you looking for when you read Scripture (information, comfort, guidance, a word from God, communion with God)? How does what you are looking for influence how you read it?
3. No matter how you answered the question above with what you are looking for when reading, how can the Holy Spirit (or how do you hope the Holy Spirit will) intersect with you as you read?
4. How and when have the Scriptures been the voice of God to you? How have they brought you into the presence of God?
5. When reflecting on reading scripture with your head vs. your heart, how would you relate that head vs. heart to your faith journey as a whole?
6. Discuss practices you have tried, or can try, that help encourage reading Scripture with your heart and engaging with the Holy Spirit. Also discuss any barriers you may face that can hinder us from this engaging with Scripture this way. If this is a new concept to any in your group, jump to exploring the exercise below.

There are many ways to engage with the Word of God, but with focusing on the voice of God through the Holy Spirit, we are going to practice together what is called *lectio divina*. This is not a prescriptive way to read as you can change the order of the steps or sit at one step longer, etc, but a focus would be slowing down as well as intentionally engaging with the Holy Spirit.

Silencio - Silence - this is the step that can be easy to skip as you dive into reading scripture. Settle into your chair, close your eyes, and take some deep breaths. You are preparing your heart and mind for a conversation with God as you read His Word. Offer a simple prayer of preparation, it can be what we used in service, "Holy Spirit, help me understand this", or something else you prefer.

Lectio - Read - read a few verses at a time, like we did in service with Psalm 119:9-16 or pick another passage. Read it slowly.

Meditatio - Meditate - Read the passage again. This time even slower. Pay attention to anything that grab your attention. Do not be afraid to linger at any one verse or phrase, or even word for a few moments. Immerse yourself in the words or story you are reading. Be still. This is God's Word for you.

Oratio - Pray - "Holy Spirit, help me understand. What are you revealing to me? What are you teaching me?" Ask, and then listen. Allow the Scripture to lead you into a prayer response. Hold nothing back. God is there with you and He loves you.

Contemplatio - Contemplate - Receive God's Word. Be still in His presence and sense His love for you. Pay attention to what is resonating with your heart today from what you read and/or heard. Carry those words with you as you go about your day. Linger in His presence.