

## Chapter Seven: *Impacted By the Living Word*

### Getting Connected

When and where did you receive your very first Bible? What was this experience like for you?

How has your experience with the Bible changed over the years?

Which statement *best* describes your personal connection with the Bible right now?

- It helps me encounter God
- It is meaningful to my daily life
- It is my source of truth
- I read it on a regular basis to grow spiritually
- I enjoy studying it with others
- It comforts me when I'm going through tough times
- I like listening to it being taught by my pastor
- Frankly, I find it pretty boring and unhelpful to me personally
- Other:

How do you feel about your answer?

### Highlights and Insights

In your own words, how would you *briefly* summarize Chapter 7?

Was there anything that really caught your attention or challenged you in this chapter?

### Biblical Focus

Read John 5:39-40.

Why does Jesus say it's important that we study God's Word?

As we study the Bible, what are some ways we can miss the real point of doing so?

What would make a person study the Scriptures in this way?

## ***Good News For Those Trying Harder, by Pastor Alan Kraft***

What's the difference between reading the Bible for information or for encounter?

Can you give an example of doing both from your own life?

How do you think a person can *encounter* Christ while reading the Old Testament?

Read Psalm 1:1-4.

Describe the "blessed" person's experience with the Bible (i.e. "the law of the LORD") from these verses.

How is it possible for a person to meditate on the Bible in this way? (verse 2)

What emotions does this create for you?  
Why?

How does the comparison with the tree (verse 3) speak to you?

**On pages 136-140, the author invites us to experience a day's reading from The One Year Bible (Carol Stream, Illinois: Tyndale, 2004)**

***If you did this, what was the experience like for you?***

***Were there any words, verses or passages that stood out?***

***Did you draw any practical implications for your life?***

***Were you able to turn any portion of these readings into a prayer to God?***

### **The Heart of the Matter**

What difference is the Bible making in your life right now?

Are you setting aside regular opportunities for God to speak into your heart through His Word? If so, what do those look like for you?

If not, what might a very practical next step in that direction look like?

### **In Conclusion...**

As you conclude, spend time as a group thanking God for His Word, praying for each person to grow in their encounter with Christ through the reading, study and application of God's Word on a consistent basis. Pray specifically for issues, roadblocks and longings shared in this week's discussion.