

Title: Why is the Bible Important

Purpose: A look into why the Bible is important to us as Reformed Christians and why it is important to read the Bible.

Scripture Reference: Lk 24:27, 1 Tim 4:13, 2 Tim. 3:15-16

Reformed Perspective: Book of Confessions: Scots 3.20, 2ndHC 5.001, 5.003, 5.008-5.009, WCF 6.002, 1967 9.27, 9.29; Directory of Worship: W-2.2000

Visual Aids: 2 Cakes: 1 made using a recipe and 1 made substituting salt, lard, and vinegar. Box of Salt. Can of Lard. Bottle of Vinegar. Cook Book. A Student Bible.

Gather the children together in front and ask:

Pastor: How many of you are in fourth grade and have received one of these Student Bibles?

Why do you think that we give you a Student Bible when you go into the fourth grade?
Let me explain it this way...

Present them with the two cakes and ask:

Which cake would you guys want to eat? (Show the two cakes) But before you choose, I must tell you one thing. This cake, I made first. I made it from my memory of how my mom used to bake cakes. I remembered her putting white granulated stuff in the mix so I used some of this. (Show salt) And I remember her putting some pasty stuff and I figured this table lard would do the trick. (Show lard) I remembered my mom using some liquid in her cake batter. I found some of this in the cupboard so I thought this might work. (Show vinegar) I mixed it together with flour and baked it. Viola.

This other cake I made sure to follow the directions in this cook book. (Show cook book) It told me to use flour, sugar (uh oh!), butter (uh oh!), eggs (I knew I forgot something), and water (uh oh!). Well I'm sure this other one turned out pretty much the same way.

Which one do you want to eat?

I used this in order to make a point. We give you Bibles because we care about you and we think that God has some pretty important things to tell you about life. The Bible is like a cook book for your lives. In it, (point to bible) you will find the answers to how to be a Christian, how to love others, and how God loves you. You can ignore the Bible and try to do it on your own, but its kind of like baking a cake without the recipe. You might look okay on the outside, but on the inside, you won't be what you were meant to be.

I hope that each one of you will read your Bible. I read mine every day and I hope your parents do the same. It is a very important part of our Christian life.

End with a prayer thanking God for giving the Bible as directions for our lives.

Notes:

Scripture is at the heart of our Reformed Tradition. We center our worship around its reading and proclamation and then carry its understanding into the world. We believe that the Scriptures are God's Revelation revealed to the authors through the Holy Spirit and written down for the nurture of the church. Likewise, through discernment, prayer, and meditation upon Scripture, we believe that we are in turn revealed God's will through the Holy Spirit. It therefore becomes crucial that we make Scripture an active part of our daily lives in order to understand God's will.

But the Bible is not just to be read and understood, it is to be acted upon. As Presbyterians and Reformed Christians, we believe that what we do is important to God. We believe that the Scriptures reveals not only what God has done but what God wants us to do. We require understanding in order to participate fully as heirs within the Body of Christ.

Through the analogy of the Bible to a cook book, I am relating the importance of Scripture upon our growth as Christians but also as humans. If we are to be what God truly meant us to be and are to revive the image of God stamped upon us, then we must live our lives as best as possible in light of Scripture. We are made new in Christ, yet the process doesn't end with our acceptance of Jesus. As the Book of James points it, "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?" Our faith requires deeds, and those deeds require knowledge. From our Reformed perspective, this knowledge comes from prayer, Scripture, and discernment of the Holy Spirit.

The use of the cakes draws the children's attention. If it was a small enough group of kids, I would probably make a sheet cake and allow the kids to share it after the service. There is nothing wrong with rewarding the kids for their patience and time in front. However, I wouldn't want to always give rewards and prizes. I don't want prizes to detract from the message given. It does, however, seem natural in this case.