**Ideas for the Summer**

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE:

It has been stated that it takes 77 hours to read the Bible aloud at “pulpit rate”. A wonderful thing to do is to read through the Bible after completing a study such as ours on Genesis. One of many benefits is that it helps you put things in context. Setting aside at least 30 minutes every day to pray first and then read should enable you to complete the Bible before the fall study begins. There are various Bible reading plans that are available. (i.e. MacLaurin’s, Discipleship Journal Bible Reading, etc.) (Please consider getting one or two others to do this as well for the accountability.)

ORGANIZE A SMALL GROUP TO MEET WEEKLY:

Consider Knowing God by J.I. Packer or With Christ in the School of Prayer by

Andrew Murray or the Pursuit of God by A.W.Tozer or The Lord is my Shepherd by Robert Morgan. Agree on the amount to read each week (whether one chapter or more.) Meet to discuss the passages read. These can individually be studied on a daily basis.

PROVERBS:

Since there are 31 chapters of Proverbs, you might study one chapter each day (i.e. Proverbs 1 on May 1st, Proverbs 2 on May 2nd, etc) As you prayerfully read the Proverb, focus on 1 or 2 verses that particularly stand out. Record these in your journal, your thoughts about them, and spend time praying through them.

LAMPLIGHTERS (self-study edition)

This is a Bible Study series that is designed for self study or for small groups. Each one has a particular theme. For example, the study on 2 Timothy is subtitled “The True Servant of God”. The website is [www.LamplightersUSA.org](http://www.LamplightersUSA.org) The series offered are on Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Nehemiah, Esther, Proverbs, Acts, Romans, Galatians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, and James. (May be found at Christian bookstores or online)

TOPICAL JOURNALING

Use a topical Bible, i.e. Nave’s. Nave’s collects numerous verses all related to one topic i.e. righteousness, sin, salvation, prayer and 100s of others. Choose one topic. Take one verse a day. I suggest copying the verse word for word prayerfully. Then pause and pray over the verse, asking the Lord to reveal something about Himself that verse. After having done that, write a paragraph about any insight you have. Then close in prayer.

PSALMS:

There are 150 Psalms. It has been suggested that you read on the first day of the month Psalm 1, 30,60, 90, and 120. The second day of the month you would read Psalms 2, 31, 61, 91, and 121. (Some have found prayerfully reading three in the morning and two at night has worked the best). Keep a journal, recording 1 or 2 thoughts from each Psalm that stand out to you as your read. (Some have recommended reading a Proverb a day with these Psalms…)

GOSPELS:

Begin with Matthew and prayerfully read one chapter a day (in the morning, but perhaps several times each day). In a journal, record one or two verses or insights about the Lord Jesus. Think and pray through these, praising the Lord for Who He is and for What He is like. As you read a chapter a day, continue through Matthew, then Mark, Luke, and John.

MEMORIZATION:

After studying the Gospel of John, you might go through each chapter selecting at least one verse that has proven to be especially meaningful to you to memorize.

Having at least 21 verses memorized from the Gospel of John would truly be a blessing!

There are 4 key Christological passages in the N.T. These are John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-4; and Philippians 2:5-11. Take each one of these passages..one per month (i.e. May, June, July, and August). Write them out on the first day of the month. Daily, read through them. Meditate upon them. Begin memorizing them, coming back to them throughout each day.