

How We Live — Daily Time in God's Word (Summary by Sermon Sections)

1. Four Pillars

Discipleship at Oakhill rests on four daily practices — the Word, prayer, giving, fellowship — not devised as a strategy but drawn from the earliest church. A few believers on an island with only a Bible and these four practices would build a church within a year. Everything else believers do is "scaffolding"; these four are "the building" — they don't come down. Today's focus: daily time with God in His Word.

Acts 2:42 — "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Acts 2:44–45 — "All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need."

2. A Learner Has to Hear the Teacher

Disciple means learner, and a learner must be able to hear the Teacher. Prayer is us talking to God; the Word is God talking to us. Most believers only experience God's word second-hand — through a preacher, a podcast, a friend — because it's easier to control and set aside than a direct word from God. The marker of this pillar: being asked "What is God saying to you?" and having a real answer.

(No scripture cited in this section.)

3. Why We Don't Spend Time With God

The excuse is always busyness, but we make time for what we want. The deeper reason is that quiet is where the version of ourselves we protect doesn't survive. This isn't for God's benefit — He already knows us — it's for ours, so we finally see what He already sees. David could invite this searching confidently, trusting God's character — He searches to lead, not condemn; reveals to heal, not shame.

Hebrews 4:12–13 — "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

James 1:23–25 — "Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it — not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it — they will be blessed in what they do."

Psalms 139:23–24 — "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

4. Fresh Bread Daily

In the wilderness, God trained Israel to depend on Him daily rather than stockpile — a lesson later summarized by Moses. Jesus taught the same daily rhythm in the Lord's Prayer. A missed day in the Word isn't just missing information — it's facing today with yesterday's bread, and over time that pattern leaves faith feeling dry and God feeling distant.

Exodus 16:4 — "The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day."

Deuteronomy 8:3 — "He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."

Matthew 6:11 — "Give us this day our daily bread."

5. Fifteen Minutes, Starting Tomorrow

Practical steps: pick a time when you're actually alert, pick a quiet place set apart, and give fifteen minutes, not an hour. Read until He says something, then stop — it's a conversation, not ground to cover. Write down the one thing He said.

(No scripture directly quoted in this section; references Jesus' pattern in Luke and Mark of going to a solitary place.)

6. The Jar That Was Never Eaten

An omer of manna was preserved before the Testimony as a witness for future generations. In the same way, what God feeds you through His Word becomes part of your testimony over time, and only what you've gathered yourself can be passed on. For anyone feeling empty, Jesus offers a different well.

Exodus 16:32–34 — "Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the wilderness... So Aaron put it in front of the Testimony, to be kept."

2 Timothy 2:2 — "And the things you have heard me say... entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

John 4:13–14 — "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

7. The Commitment

Three commitments: a time (decided the night before), a place (chosen now, not improvised), and a person (someone who can ask, and be asked, "What is God saying to you?"). Closing prayer: an invitation to stop living on borrowed bread and come out daily to be searched, fed, and given something to share.

(No new scripture in this section.)