

## *Access the Treasure of God's Word*

Greetings, friend!

When it comes to technology, are you an “early-adopter” or a “late-bloomer?” No matter your style, it’s never been easier to access the treasure that is God’s Word found in the Bible, our sacred text. We can read or listen to Scripture virtually



anywhere, but sadly many Americans that I know will admit that they don’t – mostly because they “don’t have time.” And when we do take the time, what is our purpose? What do we hope to gain, and what will we do with that knowledge?

At BeADisciple, our focus for the year is on scriptural literacy and we invite you to join us in that journey. What is scriptural literacy, you might ask? It’s not the ability to win a Bible trivia contest, or checking the box on the attendance pad that proves you went to church.

Scriptural literacy is not about how many biblical facts you know, but about how those facts relate – to one another, to our world, our ministry, and to the wider meaning of Scripture. It’s about the integrity of God’s message, and about being able to spot distortions of that message. Yet, it’s also about humility, recognizing the “lens” of one’s own reading horizon, and the cultivation of a posture for listening to God’s word, rather than superimposing what we want Scripture to mean.

Our Director of Advanced Christian Studies and resident theologian Dr. Michael Beardslee explains it this way, “A biblically literate reader understands that our grasp of Scripture is always unfinished. It’s never complete. And by grafting these different and new contexts and perspectives into our grasp of Scripture, we’re conveying that the Bible remains a living text with the power to trouble us, and the power to sanctify.”

BeADisciple instructors work hard to create opportunities to exercise the muscle of scriptural literacy in their courses, and each month this year we will highlight upcoming courses in this category. I encourage you to review the offerings below and consider which one might be just what God is calling you to in this moment, so that you can

confidently share, lead, teach, equip, witness, and serve, in all the ways you can, for as long as ever you can. Thanks be to God!

Peace,



Lori Richey  
Director of Online Education, Institute for Discipleship

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## ***Check Out These Spiritual Literacy Courses Beginning in May and June***

**May 5 - May 25: *21-Day Journey in God's Word***

**May 12 - May 23: *Creative Praying Through Scripture, Music, and Art***

**May 19 - June 27: *Leading Like Nehemiah***

**June 2 - July 7: *Proclaiming Scripture With a Storytelling Spirit for Summer***

**June 16 - 27: *Proclaiming the Word from Mark's Gospel***

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## **Richard Wilke, Co-Founder of Institute for Discipleship, Dies Easter Morning at 94**

Richard Wilke, whose passion for scriptural literacy led to the co-founding of the Institute for Discipleship, died April 20, 2025, in Winfield, Kansas. He was surrounded by family members as he made the transition just as the sun rose on Easter morning. He was 94

Bishop Wilke was serving the Arkansas episcopacy of the United Methodist Church when became convicted that many Christians lacked biblical foundation for their faith. He and his wife, Julia, then wrote the Disciple Bible Study, which has led more than three million users to deeper biblical knowledge and understanding. Proceeds from the sale of the study were used to found the Institute for Discipleship (IFD) at Southwestern College. In addition to BeADisciple, the IFD is developer and host of the BeADisciple study app.



A full obituary that outlines Bishop Wilke's remarkable life can be found at [this link](#).

[Richard Wilke Obituary](#)

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May 12 - May 30: *Church Administration, Leadership, and Finance*

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