## Thirsty?



In our popular culture, the image of the bookworm in an ivory tower is often gently mocked. He/she should close those books and do something! At first glance, the Book of James seems to comfort this view: "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourself. Do what it says." (James 1:22).

On closer inspection however, James was writing to Christians with a Jewish background. In that cultural milieu the studying and debating of Scriptures were respected, ingrained habits. On the Sabbath day of rest - before television and the internet – it was probably the central activity for many. So James' call to be "doers of the Word" was based on the assumption that many of his readers already knew the Scriptures well.

Reflecting on the Christian life, the Welsh preacher Martyn Lloyd-Jones wrote: "It is the extent of our understanding that ultimately determines our experience". He noted that the Ephesian community to whom Paul wrote included uneducated, hardworking slaves - who were nevertheless encouraged to think about the Scripture readings that they heard.

How is your personal "listening to the Word" going? Perhaps you think about sermons, and read the Bible at home - that is good. Opening the Bible is like opening a tap of living water, irrigating the heart and mind with knowledge of God and wisdom for everyday life.

"...you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water" (John 4:10)

Private Bible study is enriched by also studying in a small group, "walking with others". Comparing ideas and experiences can broaden our perspective – and be fun! Today, our church is resourced to help you learn more about what the Bible says. The table overleaf details our current Bible study offerings.

A new school year is starting ... perhaps for you too?

Ever wondered why the most sold book in the world is the Bible but why it's a struggle to read it? Join one of our groups that will guide you in different ways to see how the world of the Bible connects with our day to day world today.

Group	Who For?	Contact
BIBLE G. DIVENKE	Bible & Breakfast  Morning Bible study in a conversational style	Ralph Birch
MIDWEEKBIBLE STUDY	Midweek Bible Study (evenings)  If you'd like to dive deeper into the Bible, the MBS may be for you. Thinking about the texts prior to meetings is encouraged	Rob Feige Robert Stewart
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY NORTHEY ON IN WIGHTERT	Women's Bible Study A group for women that meets in person once a month in Mertert for prayer and conversation about Bible texts and discipleship matters	Rev´d Evelyn Sweerts
USFE Group	Lyfe Group  Fortnightly, online with f2f socials, mixing Bible study and learning from others through their stories, with time for prayer, walking through life together	Rev´d Geoff Read
ANGLICAN BOOK CLUB	Anglican Book Club  Complementary to the Bible Study groups, the ABC is a meeting point between Christian ideas and popular culture / current issues	Rob Feige



