

BIBLE STUDY LESSON
CHURCH THEME: FAMILY, COMMUNITY, OUTREACH
“DEVELOP A TEACHABLE HEART”

Romans 12:16 NLT) “Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all.”

Introduction: Everyone should be a lifetime learner. If your life is going to be better and impactful, you must continue to learn. If you knew everything when you were born, your parents wouldn’t teach you anything. They wouldn’t also have spent money to send you to school to be educated.

Similarly, if you had learned everything you needed to know in school in one class, you wouldn’t need to be promoted to another class, let alone proceed to a higher level of education. Even after graduation from a higher institution of learning, there are still higher things to learn.

There are things you don’t learn in the conventional classroom. Learning must continue. Life is a school and anyone can be your teacher if you are ready to learn, starting from learning the most important thing: knowing God.

Some people are full of themselves. They believe they know it all. They are too proud to learn from others or even acknowledge that they learned from another person. What will they gain from this?

I look forward to learning new and positive things every day, both in the Word of God and general knowledge. When I learn something from someone, I like to let him/her know it, and I am grateful for it. It doesn’t reduce me. Nobody knows everything. It is an insecure or proud person who would not acknowledge and give credit to someone who deserves it.

Notice what Paul told Timothy **II Timothy 2:2 (NKJV) “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”** God wants faithful men and women who will be taught and will teach others what they’ve learned. As my mother I always said, **“What you don’t know, you don’t know.”** Therefore, Develop a teachable heart. Your life will be better. Ignorance destroys; it kills.

How do you Develop a teachable heart?

I. Study and meditate upon the Word of God and do what it says.

1. If you want to be teachable, learn from God. Open His Word and let Him speak into your life. The Word of God will build your character and shape you.

Notice what God told Joshua in **Joshua 1:8 (NIV)** “**Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.**”

The psalmist says in **Psalm 119:99-100 (NKJV)** “**I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.**”

2. Don't just study and meditate on the Word of God alone, Obey /Apply it. That's where the blessing is. **James 1:25 (NIV)** says, “**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.**”

3. The Word will instruct, correct, and rebuke you. The Word won't leave you the same. **II Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)** “**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**”

4. Don't reject the knowledge He wants to pass to you through His Word. **Hosea 4:6 (NKJV)** says, “**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.**”

II. Humble yourself.

Humility is a key virtue in the life of a believer. It is the act of acknowledging God's sovereignty and submitting to His will. The Bible consistently shows how God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. In this lesson, we will explore the meaning, importance, and rewards of humbling ourselves before God.

I Peter 5:5 (NIV) “**In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.**”

James 4:6 (NIV) “*But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”*”

1. What Does It Mean To Humble Yourself Before God?

a. Acknowledging God’s Sovereignty – Humility begins with recognizing that God is the Creator and ruler of all.

Psalm 24:1 (NKJV) “*The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.*”

b. Surrendering to God’s Will – It involves yielding our plans and desires to God’s purpose.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV) “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*”

c. Confessing Dependence on God – Humility means admitting that we cannot succeed without God’s help.

John 15:5 (NKJV) “*I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*”

d. Walking in Obedience – A humble heart obeys God’s commandments without question
Deuteronomy 28:1 (NIV) “*If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.*”

Don’t be proud. It takes humility to learn. Humble yourself. Proverbs 15:33 (NKJV) says, “*The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.*”

Humble yourself. You must forget your status, humble yourself, and learn what the person wants to teach you.

III. Listen and observe.

Proverbs 19:20 (NKJV) says, “*Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.*” The word, listen, is used many times in the Bible. Listen to the Word of God being preached. Pay attention. Don’t always dominate discussions. You learn when you listen and observe (watch). God gave you two ears and two eyes but one mouth! Use your ears and eyes more than your mouth! Listen and observe. A teachable person listens more than he talks. Talking more than you hear, especially before a superior, mentor, or coach, is a sign that you’re not

teachable. Notice what **James 1:19 (NIV)** “*So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.*”

Don't have a reputation for listening only to yourself! You can learn from anybody – your juniors, subordinates, or even those not as knowledgeable as you are.

Proverbs 18:2 (NKJV) says, “*A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart.*”

IV. Quit the company of fools and learn from wise people and leaders.

Look at **Proverbs 13:20 (NKJV)** says “*He who walk with the wise, you shall be wise; but the companion of fools shall be destroyed.*” **Proverbs 14:7 (NLT)** says, “*Stay away from fools, for you won't find knowledge on their lips.*” If you want to learn useful things, get away from fools.

Learn from wise people and superiors. These could be your mentors, teachers in school, bosses at work, or leaders in your chosen field. When you are with them, don't show them what you know. Listen and take notes. Ask questions. Please don't waste the time you spend with them. If you have an appointment with them, prepare questions you will ask them to maximize your time.

Proverbs 15:7 (NKJV) says, “*The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so.*”

V. Seek counsel, ask questions, and request help.

Don't assume you know it all. The Laodicean church said in **Revelation 3:17 (NKJV)**, “*I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing.*” Note the phrase “*have need of nothing.*” No matter how wealthy someone may get, they still lack or need something. Nobody knows everything. Everybody has something he needs to know. We all have our areas of ignorance. Even regarding what you know, understand that knowledge is increasing and expanding.

Proverbs 3:7a (NKJV) says “*Do not be wise in your own eyes...*” According to **Proverbs 26:12 (NLT)** “*there is more hope for a fool than for someone wise in his own eyes.*” Don't be ashamed to let people know you don't know something. What you don't know, you don't know. **Romans 12:16c (NLT)** says, “*Don't think you know it all!*”

VI. Invest in Literature/Studies that will increase and broaden your knowledge. These include books, magazines, and videos. It will cost you time and money, but it's worth it. There is no entirely new idea anywhere; people are building on what others have done or receiving inspiration to veer into new dimensions of what already exists. Stand on the shoulders of others by learning from

them. Proverbs 4:5 (NKJV) says “Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.”

In prison, Paul was still reading. He said to Timothy in II Timothy 4:13 (NLT) “When you come, be sure to bring the coat I left with Carpus at Troas. Also bring my books, and especially my papers.”

Daniel said in Daniel 9:2 “During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, learned from reading the word of the Lord, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years.”

VII. Accept responsibility for your failures and except corrections.

Proverbs 12:1 (NLT) says, “To learn, you must love discipline; it is stupid to hate correction.” Don’t hate correction. Proverbs 29:1 (NLT) says, “Whoever stubbornly refuses to accept criticism will suddenly be destroyed beyond recovery.”

Don’t pass the buck; don’t engage in a blame game. Admit your faults. Take corrections; change your mind where you’re wrong. Don’t persist in error because of ego. Proverbs 17:10 (NKJV) says, “Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool.” According to Proverbs 15:31-32 (NKJV) “The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise. He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.”

As you and I interact with others, be a learner, don’t think you know it all. Nobody does. Roman 12:16 (NLT) “Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all!”