

Introduction

The movie *The Imitation Game* tells the story of British scientists' efforts to crack the secret Nazi code, "Enigma," during World War II. Sometimes we might feel like the Bible is written in some mysterious code. When we read a passage of Scripture, it's normal to wonder, "What does this have to do with me?" Unlike the Enigma code, God will help us understand what He has planned for our lives if we start by studying His Word with a heart of obedience and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. The best way to study is to find a special time each day away from the busyness of daily life. If we haven't done so, we should also get into the rhythm of attending a Bible-based church where our faith and understanding grow through hearing Scripture [Romans 10:17]. God can use these rhythms to transform us into His image through His eternal Word.

Discussion

Read **Ephesians 3:14-19**, and discuss how these verses relate to the following situations. Then, consider how you would apply this passage in each situation through prayer, counseling or other transforming influences.

1. Sandra and Tom just had another big fight. Each time they reconcile, they get along nicely for a few days before their relationship deteriorates again. While they were both raised in Christian homes and attended church regularly as children, neither has shown any interest in seeking God since their wedding.
2. Adam is despondent. He says each time he takes a step in his faith, his anger creeps up on him. This week, he feels guilty over resentful thoughts he's harboring about a family member who embarrassed him on Facebook.
3. Jane is bothered by her old habits. Since becoming a Christian, she has tried giving up swearing but every now and then lets loose with a string of profanities. She is especially sensitive because her co-workers know she's a Christian, and one of them goes to her church.

Think About It

During this Olympics season, we often hear of legendary athletes. Few will ever approach the remarkable transformation in the life of one athlete, Bob Beamon. Losing his mother as a child and being raised by an abusive father, young Bob found his way into a gang in Queens, New York. His troubles peaked after a high school fight that resulted in his expulsion and a court hearing. The judge gave this troubled teen a second chance after his grandmother promised to watch over him. Beamon then channeled his energy into sports where he excelled and eventually rose to Olympics qualifier in the long jump. Then, in the biggest moment of the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, he astonished the track world by leaping nearly two feet longer than the world record. Bob was overcome with emotion after learning of his accomplishment, a record that would stand for more than two decades. If this unlikely athlete could be transformed through the influence of a loving grandmother, how much more can God transform us through His mighty power if we'll submit to Him?

Do Something

1. Find a time in your routine this week to read the Bible for at least five minutes each day. Pray before you begin that God will show you what He has in store for your life. Practice listening to the quiet inner voice of the Holy Spirit.
2. Read Romans 12 at least once this week, and pick a verse that challenges you to behave differently. Ask God for His strength to help you to apply that verse in your life this month, reading it occasionally to refresh the meaning. If you feel comfortable, share this verse with another believer, and explain how it relates to your spiritual walk.

Resources

Below are links to various resources that will help you along the way as you read the Bible.

Bible Commentaries

Old Testament
New Testament

Books

Intro to Biblical Interpretation
How to Read the Bible for all It's Worth

Bible App/Reading Plans

YouVersion