Becoming a Self-Feeder in the Word

* Intro
  + “Greatness” of God’s Word – Deut. 29:29
    - This is what God invites us into and calls us to feed on
    - God has given it to us – it is ours!
  + Scripture is God’s revelation to us
    - Corporate, small group – good, great!
    - Also need to be a self-feeder, we individually need to be digesting God’s Word and worshipping him personally
* Our posture
  + Realize/Remember what this book is – it’s not just another book, it’s not just instructions, it’s not just moral stories – it’s the very words God has chosen to reveal to us! It’s exactly what he wants us to have – to know him, worship him, and walk the Christian life.
  + Our heart/mind – dependent and expectant – Psalm 119:18
  + Need the Spirit – 1 Corinthians 2:12
    - Pray, be humble, seek the Spirit’s wisdom
  + Seeking change/growth – James 1:22-25
* Starting
  + Translations?
    - Theory/Process - NASB, ESV… NIV… NLT
    - Study Bible is very helpful
  + What to read?
    - Helpful to read both OT & NT – seeing progression and big picture helps a ton with context and understanding – maybe alternate?
    - There are certain books that usually are better to start with than others
      * John, Genesis, Acts, Exodus, Ephesians, etc.
    - Read a chunk at a time – paragraph/section/chapter
  + Study/Meditate
    - Pen/paper – Donald Whitney – “Difference between reading and studying is a pen and paper”
    - Be diligent, record what you learn, questions, etc.
* Inductive Method
  + Observation
    - Genre/Big context (Redemptive history)
  + Interpretation
    - This is initially written to a specific people in a specific time – seek to understand this
    - Scripture interprets Scripture – Hebrews/Sacrifices, Abraham in OT & NT, etc.
    - Study Bible/Commentary – Can be very helpful (Me – Sermon on Mount & Isaiah)
    - How does God enter into the sin/brokenness/etc.?
  + Application
    - Be affected by God’s Word
    - Commands to obey, Sins to avoid/confess, Promises to believe, Encouragement/Comfort to find, What to praise/thank God for, How can I see God, myself, others more clearly?
* Small Groups
  + Colossians 2:6-15
    - Context/Observation
    - Interpretation
    - Application
      * Me – v. 15 – Demonic rulers & authorities are put to OPEN SHAME, TRIUMPHED over – like a conquering king parading his spoils/captives through the streets in celebration – shaming them – brought me great thanks and joy and comfort! Instead of my shame winning the day, Jesus takes on my shame on the cross – and puts the enemies to shame (my brokenness/pointing me to Christ)
* Me – meditating/memorizing, worshipping God through his Word recently
  + Psalm 1:1-3
* Action
  + Four Sevens – together as a summer mission – Luke
  + You may be reading something else right now, but we are asking everyone (staff too) to do this together. You can supplement with whatever else you are reading, but we want to do this together. Encourage each other, help one another, talk about the Scriptures together.