



A Celebration of How We Use the Bible

Introduction

This celebration acknowledges some of the many ways we use the Bible: to listen to God, to learn about God's people, and to share our faith. The following liturgy can be printed in bulletins, as a separate handout, or included in a PowerPoint.

Preparation

Prior to the worship service, recruit three volunteers to be readers, one for each part of this celebration liturgy. Using a variety of voices in the celebration will help highlight the variety of uses for the Bible. Rather than printing out the verses for each reader, encourage volunteers to read directly from the Bible.

Readings and Prayers

Today we celebrate the gift of our Holy Bible, God's Word in our lives. Through this Word, we come to learn about the depth and breadth of God's love for the people of God throughout history. The Bible has many uses. Today we will highlight and celebrate three of them.

We use the Bible to listen to God.
(*Volunteer 1 reads Micah 6:6-8.*)

Let us pray. O God, we often seek to know your will for us and the way you want us to live. Open our hearts to the words of your Scripture so that we may listen to your Word and use it to discern your will for us. Even as you do, empower us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

We use the Bible to learn about God's people.
(*Volunteer 2 reads 1 Peter 2:4-10.*)

Let us pray. O God, as human beings, we often feel lost and alone in the world. We can find ourselves wandering astray as we seek both our personal and corporate identities. Help us to listen to your Word so that we might learn more about our identity as your holy people and royal priesthood. Amen.

We use the Bible to share our faith.
(Volunteer 3 reads Acts 8:26-40.)

Let us pray. O God, so often we feel inferior in our ability to share your word of grace with others. We worry about stumbling over our words and confusing people rather than helping them come to know you better. Empower us so that we might turn to and use your Word faithfully and without fear as we share our faith. May we be as bold as Philip as we listen to your call to witness to others. Amen.

(Worship leader lifts a copy of the Bible overhead.)

We can use the Bible for many things in our lives as Christians. May this day be a reminder to us to turn to God's Word for all things that we face and for all purposes in our lives. Thanks be to God for the gift of God's Word. Amen.