

# Ep 244

**Shelby:** [00:00:00] Welcome to Daily Grace. We believe the Bible is true, trustworthy, and timeless. And we want to help women like you, know and love God's Word. The Bible shows us who God is, and who He is changes everything. My name is Shelby,

**Krystal:** and I'm Krystal. And we want to invite you to come join us as we chat about the truth of God's Word in our everyday lives.

Hey everybody, and welcome back to our final episode in our summer series, Mistakes We've Made in Bible Study. We have loved doing these episodes.

Mm-hmm. We've covered a lot of ground, but I think today's episode I'm most excited to talk about. But before we get into it, you know, these are short episodes for the summer. We're still doing favorite things, but we're doing them in 15 seconds or less. Thank you for getting out a timer, because

**Shelby:** Oh yeah.

**Krystal:** We need to [00:01:00] time ourselves.

**Shelby:** We need a timer.

**Krystal:** Timer to be concise. Okay. I'm gonna time you first

**Shelby:** Okay.

**Krystal:** To do a favorite thing. So ready. What is your favorite thing this week?

**Shelby:** My favorite thing this week is the Things Unseen Podcast with Sinclair Ferguson. It's a daily, a weekday, five to six minute podcast. He takes a theological concept and he breaks it down just a few minutes each day through the course of the week.

**Krystal:** Oh! That's loud.

**Shelby:** Whoa.

**Krystal:** That's what you need to wake yourself up, huh?

**Shelby:** I have so much more I could say, but I'll link it in the show notes so people can go check it out because it's really cool.

**Krystal:** I love it.

**Shelby:** All right. Are you ready?

**Krystal:** I'm ready.

**Shelby:** Okay. On your mark. Get set. Favorite thing.

**Krystal:** Okay. My favorite thing this week is actually my son celebrated his 10th birthday this week and so it's been really sweet just to celebrate him.

Uh, we love like looking back on what we were doing 10 years ago, like right before we went to the hospital to deliver and so it was just sweet to get to celebrate him. [00:02:00]

**Shelby:** Wow. I should have not put a sound on that, but I dunno how to take it off.

Uh, that's awesome. You've been a mom for a decade.

**Krystal:** Yeah, when you say it like that, it feels

**Shelby:** feel like a big accomplishment?

**Krystal:** Yeah, it, you know, people say it like the days are long, years are short. And I look back, I'm like, how has it been

**Shelby:** Yeah.

**Krystal:** 10 years? You'll be there soon.

**Shelby:** I know. My son turns 10 in just a couple months. Yeah. So, yeah, it's crazy.

Well, this week's episode is about a mistake that doesn't seem like a mistake on the surface, uh, when we're talking about Bible study.

Um, But it actually is a pretty big one.

**Krystal:** Mm-hmm.

**Shelby:** And I think it's one that's made a lot. And so I'm really glad we're talking about it. The mistake that we're talking about today is reading the Bible alone.

**Krystal:** Mm-hmm.

**Shelby:** So, Krystal, let's talk about that for a second. What happens when we only read the Bible alone? Why, why is that a mistake that can be made?

**Krystal:** Yeah. I think it's good that you said that it's a mistake if we only read the Bible alone, because obviously we need to read the Bible on our own. Whenever we're digging [00:03:00] in, we want to grow in our own relationship with the Lord. But if that's all we do, we don't ever bring community in. It can be a mistake.

I remember when I got saved, I had the sentiment, you know, it's just me and Jesus. That's all I need. But then I'd open the Bible and have no idea what I was reading. And so if I was left my own devices, then how do I know what I'm reading? You know?

And so I think we wanna talk about how reading in the context of community, ~~um~~, and we'll talk a little bit more about what that means, just the value of that. So that way we don't make this mistake of reading alone.

**Shelby:** Yeah, I think when we read alone, here's the two things, and like you said, only read the Bible alone, because we should

**Krystal:** Mm-hmm.

**Shelby:** be reading the Bible on our own for sure. But when we only read the Bible on our own, here's the two biggest things that I personally miss out on in those seasons.

~~Um~~, I miss out on hearing other people say, "Man, that verse is hard. I'm struggling to live that out. ~~Like~~, That feels really hard for me right now." And when I don't hear other people say that, I assume that everyone else's walk with the Lord is easy and [00:04:00] mine is the only one that's really difficult.

**Krystal:** Yeah.

**Shelby:** I assume that everyone else just opens their Bible and understands what it says, and I'm the only one who can't figure it out.

And so reading in community, I think just ~~like~~ normalizes these things which are in Scripture, you know, all these ups and downs we experience in kind of our faith journey. It normalizes those.

~~Um,~~ And then the other thing I miss out on when I'm only reading the Bible alone is having someone say, "That's an interesting conclusion that you drew from that passage. Can you tell me how you got there?"

**Krystal:** Yeah.

**Shelby:** ~~Um,~~ And so just someone being curious and maybe even challenging and saying, ~~like,~~ "That's interesting that, that you got that from that. How do you think that that lines up with this other verse over here?"

**Krystal:** Mm-hmm.

**Shelby:** "Does that hold up?" Those conversations have been so edifying for me. And you literally cannot have those with yourself.

**Krystal:** Yes.

**Shelby:** ~~Like~~ That has to happen in community.

**Krystal:** Yes. I had a small group leader that anytime she would say, "Huh, that's interesting." I was like, "Oh, that means I'm wrong. Or maybe I didn't quite get it."

But you're right. Like we don't always see those gaps, those blind spots. So having others, ~~um,~~ help us just be able to [00:05:00] know what it is that we need to grow in, and we may not always see it for ourselves.

**Shelby:** Yeah.

**Krystal:** So I wanted to read second Timothy 3:16. I know it's one that, ~~uh,~~ we are familiar with and 17 as well. ~~Um,~~ but I think it's helpful in this conversation. So it says, "All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

And we talked about this verse at church recently, and it really stuck out to me that it was this mutually beneficial thing. It's good for us and it's good for others.

**Shelby:** Yeah.

**Krystal:** But if we're not around others, then we're not teaching, we're not rebuking, we're not able to see, ~~um~~, God's Word impacting others in this way.

And so, this is actually a question that Scott asked in our small group in this conversation. So I wanna ask you, how many Bibles do you think you have in your house right now?

**Shelby:** I mean like, ~~like my, like~~ kids' Bibles, and my husband's Bibles, and ~~like~~

**Krystal:** Everybody's Bible. Any Bible.

**Shelby:** Phone Bible? All, oh my gosh, I don't know, 20. I don't know. That's just a guess. [00:06:00]

**Krystal:** I know. We're trying to think of it and it's interesting cause we live at a time now where we have access to so many avenues to read God's Word.

**Shelby:** Mm-hmm.

**Krystal:** We have it on our phone. We have it in various translations, and it's interesting if we think about, you know, the Gutenberg Bible when it was printed in the 1400s. Like, that was really the first time it was in print in a mass-produced way, so people were able to have access to it in a way the early church didn't have access to it before.

And I think that's so critical for us to understand because the early church learned the Scriptures when it was taught to them. It was spoken to them in communal, corporate, church gatherings. And so if you were on your own by yourself, you probably weren't hearing the Word of God.

**Shelby:** Mm-hmm.

**Krystal:** Right? And so it just seems like the last several hundred years with the invention of the mass printing of Bibles, it has maybe presented the opportunity for us to isolate ourselves further

**Shelby:** Mm-hmm.

**Krystal:** with our own scriptures, our own resources. It's just me and Jesus, right? But we're missing [00:07:00] out on what the church at large could teach us as we're getting into the Word. We're no longer dependent on the church gathering like we were before. Um, We need to be in the word for ourselves, yes. But we also need to be in the Word with others.

**Shelby:** Hmm. Yeah. I think that's such a good point. And we even know that about so much of the New Testament. These letters that were written to churches, they were written to be read at kind of a corporate gathering. We know about the Old Testament, that much of it was passed orally. You know, just people sharing, um, these things down through the generations.

And so, that's such a good point that you just made. Um,

But it's so anti the culture that we're living in.

**Krystal:** Yeah.

**Shelby:** So why is it worth it to kind of go like anti-isolation and anti-culture and what is so important about reading in community?

**Krystal:** When we were talking about doing this episode, it was kind of a light bulb moment for us because we realized all the mistakes that we've been talking about [00:08:00] can be resolved, or work towards resolution, by doing this very thing,

**Shelby:** Yeah.

**Krystal:** reading in community. And so, you know, reading with only our hearts, right, and not our minds, quitting before we get started. All of these things when you're in a small group setting, when you're in a corporate church setting and someone's like, "Hey, how has your time in the Word been?" Or "Hey, that's an interesting interpretation that you have."

You know, those conversations can only happen in community. So when we are regularly in community that is centered on God's Word, we will be reminded of the benefits of Bible reading and the value of other believers in helping us in our walk with the Lord. And I think then we become better interpreters of the Bible as we learn from others and grow in our knowledge of Scripture.

**Shelby:** Yeah. I think sometimes a barrier, even if people will like show up to, let's say, a small group, ~~uh~~, and they've maybe done some Bible study throughout the week and they're coming to discuss it with their small group. I think a barrier that people sometimes feel is, they actually don't wanna open their mouth and say something in front of other people. They're [00:09:00] afraid to get it wrong.

But I think the encouragement that we would give to anybody who feels that way and to ourselves, we still feel that way. You led small group in a new small group in a new church just for the first time this week, and you reached out to me beforehand and were like, "Hey, pray for me."

**Krystal:** Yeah.

**Shelby:** You know?

**Krystal:** Yeah.

**Shelby:** And so I, I think the encouragement that we would give is community is actually the safest place to get it wrong. ~~Um~~, And that's a place where you'll have people around you who can encourage you, support you. And, I mean, the scariest place to get it wrong is alone by yourself.

**Krystal:** Mm-hmm.

**Shelby:** You know, the safest because

**Krystal:** You don't even know that you're wrong.

**Shelby:** You don't even know that you're wrong. Yeah, exactly.

**Krystal:** So, Yeah, I think it's so great. So, okay, we've talked about the benefit of reading in the context of our local church communities, ~~um~~, in the corporate gathering. But it might also be helpful to widen our definition of what it means to read in communities. So what's another way that we can do that?

**Shelby:** Yeah. Another way to read in community is to consider the community of authors and commentators and scholars and theologians that have produced books and materials and [00:10:00] commentaries about the Bible. And almost include those in your community.

**Krystal:** Yeah.

**Shelby:** And ~~um~~, you know, something that I've heard Nancy Guthrie say before, and it's like, as soon as I heard her say it, I just latched onto it.

But she often encourages people like, "Hey, we need to find better mentors."

**Krystal:** Mm.

**Shelby:** And so when we're looking for a community of teachers that we can read and be influenced by, the kind of teachers that we wanna look for are there people who are asking really big, really deep questions and they're answering them like to the nth degree.

And so I would say that finding these mentors, ~~Um~~, you know, we say this a lot in the content department, but find a book that has footnotes in it. ~~Like~~, If your book doesn't have footnotes, maybe we need to kind of level up, find out something that's a little more scholarly. And then in those footnotes, look at the books that even that person is mentioning in the footnotes as their sources.

**Krystal:** Mm-hmm.

**Shelby:** And so what we begin to [00:11:00] do is ~~like~~ go from someone who's just kind of sharing their opinions and thoughts about the Bible to someone who has done an incredible amount of deep scholarly research.

**Krystal:** Yeah.

**Shelby:** And it just ~~like~~ is better mentors.

**Krystal:** Yeah.

**Shelby:** It helps us read alongside, which is pretty phenomenal that we can do this, read alongside a community of people who are world-class scholars and theologians.

**Krystal:** Yes. Amen to footnotes. A good footnote will get you far. I've actually read several books that have been recommended, like in a footnote.

**Shelby:** Yeah.

**Krystal:** ~~Um~~, And I remember when I was studying to write on Amos, I came across a commentary that had just been released, and this scholar had spent 60 years studying the book of Amos.



**Shelby:** Wow.

**Krystal:** Which if anyone has even studied the book of Amos, that's like a feat in itself.

**Shelby:** Yeah.

**Krystal:** But like he had dedicated his life to just seeping in the Word, understanding the context. I mean, it's incredible. So yes, I love all of that.

I think, kind of in addition to that, is also reading widely. So having better mentors that are really digging in, [00:12:00] ~~um~~, you're learning more. Reading widely I think helps you to see the bigger conversation.

**Shelby:** Mm-hmm.

**Krystal:** Especially around topics that maybe there's different opinions, different interpretations.

**Shelby:** Mm-hmm.

**Krystal:** So I think that means reading maybe outside of your theological camp, which can be kind of scary.

**Shelby:** Whoa. Krystal, did you just say that out loud?

**Krystal:** Sure did, sure did.

**Shelby:** No, I agree with you by the way.

**Krystal:** Yes.

**Shelby:** I really do.

**Krystal:** But it's hard to do.

**Shelby:** It's hard to do.

**Krystal:** I would not have done it five years ago.

**Shelby:** Mm-hmm.

**Krystal:** I don't think. I think I was too scared to go off course. But here's what's great. When you have good mentors and you know what you believe, to then read a differing opinion in different perspective, just I think allows you to grow in humility that there are faithful Christians that can disagree on secondary and tertiary issues, but also allows you to really wrestle with what is it that I believe? Is it just because as one author has said it?

**Shelby:** Mm-hmm.

**Krystal:** Or is it that I've done the study, I've looked at the better mentors. I've looked at people outside of the camp and I've come to my own conclusion. So I think there's so much [00:13:00] value in reading in the context of your local church community,

**Shelby:** mm-hmm.

**Krystal:** finding those better mentors, really digging deep into God's Word and those resources, and then, you know, reading a little bit outside of your camp.

**Shelby:** Mm-hmm.

**Krystal:** As uncomfortable as that is, it doesn't mean you're gonna change your mind.

**Shelby:** Mm-hmm.

**Krystal:** Right? It doesn't mean that you're always gonna align with them, but you're gonna miss out on what other brothers and sisters within the local and global church can teach you. Again, you may not change your position, but I think you'll grow in a lot of different ways.

**Shelby:** Yeah, absolutely. You know, you just said, "brothers and sisters," and as we kind of bring this episode home, that just reminds me that as believers, like, we are part of a family and we should engage in that family. I think we all have a family member who just never comes to family functions, you know? And we wish that they would and they're missing out on, sure, the mess and the hard at times, but they're also missing out on the life and the relationship building and, and the body of Christ is no different. Like, it is a family and it's described as such in Scripture on multiple [00:14:00] occasions.

And so, um, I think also, um, remembering that we talked a lot about how reading in community can benefit you. Um, But your presence in community

also benefits others. And so this should be something that's mutually beneficial. And so if you're not showing up in community, then you are taking what God has placed in you, what He's shown you, how He's growing you, you're removing that like from the family dynamic

**Krystal:** Mm-hmm.

**Shelby:** instead of being there to offer that and have that be a part of it.

And so, ~~um~~, yeah, just, just that family picture kind of brings this whole idea home for me.

**Krystal:** Mm-hmm.

**Shelby:** You know, and if you're wondering like, "Hey, I really wanna get started doing this, but I have no idea where to get started."

One, we'd love for you to go to your local church and just ask ~~like~~, "Hey, how can I start reading the Bible with other people? Is there a small group or a discipleship program that I can join?"

**Krystal:** Mm-hmm.

**Shelby:** ~~Um~~, Also, we offer a, an amazing resource called Better Together. So, It helps you establish a discipleship relationship. Whether you want to be the person discipling someone [00:15:00] else, or you want to be disciplined by someone else, it kind of takes you through like step by step by step and helps you just establish a really healthy discipleship relationship.

And so we'll be sure to link that in the show notes. I think that'll be really, really helpful if you wanna get started on this journey. ~~Do you wanna say the Sure. Thanks for joining us. I feel like I~~

~~talked a lot.~~

**Krystal:** Thanks for joining us, ~~uh~~, for our final episode in our summer series. I'm sad that it's over, but we hope that you enjoyed it.

And if you liked this episode, make sure you go back and check out our other episodes. ~~Um~~, And in the meantime, you can come over and join us on Instagram, @DailyGracePodcast, and we'll see you next time.

**Shelby:** Goodbye.