

burden, studying God's Word becomes an act of joyful worship as we enter into a heavenly conversation. As you study the Bible, remember to pray that the Spirit will work in your mind and heart so that you will have ears to hear what he is saying through his Word.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 12-1

Once upon a time there was a man with two PhDs in New Testament studies, both from prestigious universities. His academic credentials were impeccable, and he constantly devoted himself to the study of the New Testament. The Gospels were his specialty. He did not, however, claim to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The professor's wife was a mature believer, with "only" an MA in biblical studies. They had a nine-year-old daughter who had just returned from a Christian children's camp, where she made the decision to give her life to Christ.

In light of what you have learned in this chapter about the Spirit's role in biblical interpretation, describe how each member of the family might approach John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Write at least one paragraph from the perspective of each family member.

Assignment 12-2

Select one of the following passages and walk through the *lectio divina* exercise described in this chapter. Write a one- to two-page reflection of what this experience meant to you.

Worship: Psalm 100

Worry: Matthew 6:31–33 or 1 Peter 5:6–7

Temptation: 1 Corinthians 10:12–13

Sin and confession: Psalm 51:1–10

Freedom from condemnation: Romans 8:1–4

Abiding: John 15:1–5

Rest: Psalm 62:5–8

Renewing of the mind: Romans 12:1–2

This assignment is due by 19 July 2026