Crave Exercise 3: You Were Built for This!

Thank you for being a part of this journey to listen, to feel, to hear what God is saying. Thank you for accepting the invitation to build a dependence on God's Word—to "crave spiritual milk."

Our hearts are the intended targets of the message of God's Word. But, the message has to go through our brains to get there. And of course, the written form of God's Word is a lot of text. In fact, the Bible clocks in a bit longer than the novel *Les Misérables* and a bit shorter than the entire Harry Potter series. If you don't classify yourself as a reader, that amount of text can seem pretty daunting. Actually, even if you do classify yourself as a reader, that amount of text can seem pretty daunting.

Session 2 of Crave! focused on how the Bible wants to be experienced. The passages we explored showed that God does not want us to miss one life-changing drop of His Word, inviting us to a level of communication that is engaging, meditative, and interactive. But there is another angle to consider: How do we like to learn? How are we hard-wired to interact with words? The way we take in text and process information has more to do with our level of engagement with Scripture than what we might suspect. And it could also be the difference between invigorating Bible experiences and Bible time that we don't really look forward to. We tend to gravitate to the default learning style of reader, but if reader is not your learning style, it may explain why Bible time is a struggle for you. If you've ever felt that Bible reading was boring, consider this: it's not you. It's your learning style. More specifically, it's a mismatch of your learning style with your Bible engagement. This is why it may be helpful, early in this Crave! experience, to understand the type of learning you tend toward…your learning style if you will.

I actually didn't know my learning style when a perfect storm of events occurred that gave me a craving for Scripture that changed the trajectory of my life. But I got lucky, well, divinely and mercifully directed actually, and happened upon an approach to Scripture that lit me up. We'll touch on that approach in the next couple of exercises. The reason the approach was so transformative is that it tapped into the way I like to ingest information and helped me approach Scripture in a way that catered to how I am wired. It wasn't until recently that I've understood the learning style connection.

Here's the thing: I'm not a Bible scholar nor an educator, but I believe that different genres of Scripture are designed for different learning styles. It would make sense that God would build a gateway into Scripture that caters to how each of us are wired to comprehend—God built us a personal on-ramp into the Bible. Understanding our learning style and applying it to our interaction with God's Word can open us up to an invigorating level of Bible study that we never thought attainable.

So, Session 3 is simply a brief exercise with a document (which you can find on the Crave! Webpage where you found this exercise, www.inword.org/crave-for-friends-of-inword) to introduce you to four basic learning styles (and by the way, there are myriad philosophies about learning styles and more nuanced styles than four). The exercise I'm asking of you is to simply read through the document (inserted below) and see which learning styles resonate with you (you may have more than one). You'll also see some suggestions for how to apply each learning style to a more engaging Bible study experience.

One more note: You'll see the learning styles applied to a study modality that I have alluded to in our sessions but have not yet explained—inductive Bible study. You may be familiar with this modality, or you may be seeing this phrase for the first time. We will be diving into the tools of inductive Bible study in Sessions 4-6. These are tools that help us engage in Scripture the way God asks of us (the actions we explored in Session 2) and they also employ a wide range of learning styles.

Here's an overview of the Learning Styles doc:

Page 1: A brief introduction to four basic learning styles.
Page 2: A brief treatment of mashing up learning styles with the three basics steps of inductive Bible study (observe, interpret, apply).

Here's your exercise:

Learning Style Doc Page 1: Simply read about each style and note which you think you cater to.
Learning Style Doc Page 2: Read through the learning style(s) that resonate with you and try any of the suggestions for stepping into effective Bible study.
Chart Below: The Scripture references in the chart below are snippets from the passages explored in Exercise 2 showing us how to engage in God's Word. Read the snippet and write in the middle column (labelled "Phrase") the phrase that explains the action related to God's Word (Law, decrees, words, commands, etc.). Then, using your new -found knowledge about learning styles, write in the "Learning Style" column which learning style best represents/ parallels the action phrase in each Scripture (there may be more than one learning style for each action phrase).
Learning Style Inventory: Do an online search for "my learning style" and you'll find cool tools for evaluating and better understanding your personal learning style. It is never too late to discover your learning style and to put that into practice.

Scripture	Phrase	Learning Style
Deuteronomy 6:7		
Deuteronomy 6:7		
Deuteronomy 6:8		
Deuteronomy 6:9		
Psalm 119:15		
Proverbs 2:3		
Proverbs 2:4		
Ezekiel 3:3		
Revelation 1:3		

Finally, to give you an opportunity to stay fresh with motivation behind craving God's Word, below are four bonus passages to apply your learning style. Take these passages to your "spot" and experiment with a learning style to explore these passages. You may want to also explore the context around each of these passages

1 Peter 1:3-4 | 1 Peter 2:2-3 | John 14:21 | Hebrews 11:6