

"The Heart of Our Story"

Sunday Evening Message by Ray Reynolds (September 1, 2013)

Introduction: We believe it is imperative to learn the Holy Scriptures. Paul told Timothy: *"Take hold of the life that is truly life" I Timothy 6:19* (NIV). We are going to consider the game show *Deal or No Deal* to share five experiences we can have with *The Story*. Each of these will be demonstrated by a briefcase. Let's study together...

Discussion:

Briefcase #1: Personal Reading

READ one chapter a week - **Deuteronomy 17:19**
STUDY the Bible at your own pace - **II Timothy 2:15**
JOURNAL your own thoughts - **Exodus 34:27**

Briefcase #2: Family Time

Daily family REMINDERS – **Deuteronomy 11:18-19**
Weekly family DEVOTIONS - **Deuteronomy 4:10**
Monthly family PROJECTS - **Nehemiah 4:6**

Briefcase #3: Small Groups

Resources + FELLOWSHIP = Greater Results - **Acts 2:46**
Tools + COMMUNITY = Greater Results - **Acts 5:42**
Fellowship + Community = A HEALTHY Family - **Jude 3**

Briefcase #4: Corporate Worship

Worship in SPIRIT & in TRUTH - **John 4:24**
Worship as a Church FAMILY - **Acts 2:46**
Worship God with your ALL - **Mark 12:30**

Briefcase #5: Daily Application

See the whole PICTURE - **Deuteronomy 4:9**
Consider your LEGACY – **Joshua 24:15**
Stretch your spiritual WINGS – **II Peter 3:18**

Conclusion: We are all characters in the story of God. Those who are against God, resist His plan. Those who are focused on God, and align themselves with the plan of God, will live more fruitful lives and things will make more sense. Which briefcase would you choose? Why not all of them? What you do over the next few weeks will matter. We are going to get to the heart of God's story. Our story. The greatest story ever told.