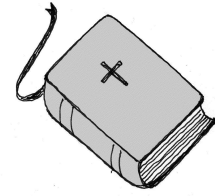


GOD'S INSTRUCTION MANUAL



Theme: *The Bible is the instruction manual for life*

Scripture: *Matthew 4:4*

Props: *TV remote and instruction manuals from various appliances*

I want to show you my new remote. It's a universal remote, which means it works with my TV, my DVD player and my VCR.

You see, my old remote broke and I had to buy this one. I went to the store, bought it and brought it home. I took it out of the package and put in the batteries. Then I pointed it at the TV and went "click". Nothing! "Click, click." Nothing! "Click, click, click." Still nothing! That's when I found out you can't use it until you program it. Unfortunately, I'm not a very technical kind of guy. Fortunately, it came with an instruction manual that tells you how to do it.

It seems like everything comes with an instruction manual these days. Here's one for my DVD player. And one for my CD player. Here's one for my lawn mower, and one for the washing machine. Everything has an instruction manual – including you and me!

Did you know that you and I come with an instruction manual, too? You know what it's called? The Bible! Let me read what Jesus says in Mathew 4:4. It says, "Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

In other words, the Bible is an instruction manual that shows us how to live. If I want this remote to work properly I need to follow the instructions in the manual. And if we want to live properly we need to follow the instructions in the Bible. So the better we know the Bible, the better we'll be able to live our lives properly.

That's something we should pray about: Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the Bible to be our instruction manual. Help us to continue to learn more about it and to follow all the instructions it gives. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Song: *"Thy Word"*