

# What If ??????????

For your ice breaker you open it up and ask people to share anything they've been reading from their Bible lately. Several people begin to share... and someone comments on how much they've been enjoying reading the J. C. Ryle commentary on the book of Matthew as they read it Matthew in their Bible. Then someone else speaks up and talks about how they've enjoyed reading verse by verse through Romans. At this point someone speaks up says, "I feel like you guys have just left the Spirit of God completely out of this whole process. You're so rigid and organized in your Bible reading you haven't left any room for the Spirit to speak. I just open my Bible each day to wherever it falls open and read right there. God always speaks to me that way... and I know it wasn't just me. I think we need to be led by the Spirit rather than constrained by any particular Bible reading plan."

**You have 5 minutes** to decide how you should proceed and you *must* have at least one verse to motivate / guide your decision

- Where should you start? What verses come to your mind that would guide us regarding the role of God's Word and the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- How would you respond to this person? What does the Bible say about the way that the Spirit can speak to us and lead us? What verses would you use?
- What about this issue of organized Bible reading? How do you balance systematic Bible study and being led by the Spirit.