

Bible Study Handbook

TOOLS, TECHNIQUES, & STRATEGIES FOR GETTING
THE MOST OUT OF YOUR PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY



GREEN ACRES WOMEN'S MINISTRY



DEDICATION PAGE

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO YOU: ANY WOMAN WHO
DESIRES A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH HER SAVIOR.

to: _____

from: _____



Bible Study Handbook

**THE UNFOLDING OF YOUR WORDS GIVES LIGHT; IT GIVES
UNDERSTANDING TO THE SIMPLE.
PSALM 119:30 (NIV)**

By Women, For Women

Debbie Stuart, Lisa Rose, Emily Adams, and Jaime Cornelius



Cover Art & Book Design: Emily Adams

Compilation & Editing: Debbie Stuart, Emily Adams, Mimi Youngblood

Contributors: Debbie Stuart, Jan Burkhart, Emily Adams, Jaime Cornelius, Lisa Rose

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To obtain additional copies, contact Green Acres Women's Ministry at women@mail.gabc.org.

For more information:

Green Acres Women's Ministry

1607 Troup Highway

Tyler Texas 75701

(903) 525- 1141

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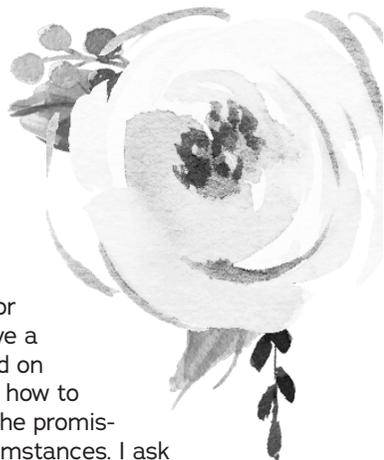
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"When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments." (Psalm 119:59-60 ESV)



Introduction



With Great Love,

We give to YOU this Bible Study Handbook. It is a labor of love from a variety of women who love you and have a deep desire for you to know how to walk with the Lord on a daily basis. Years ago a precious woman taught me how to study God's Word, pull out biblical principles, identify the promises and draw personal application for my life and circumstances. I ask the Lord each day to teach me and help me to "practice" His Word.

*"Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions;
I will put them into practice with all my heart."*

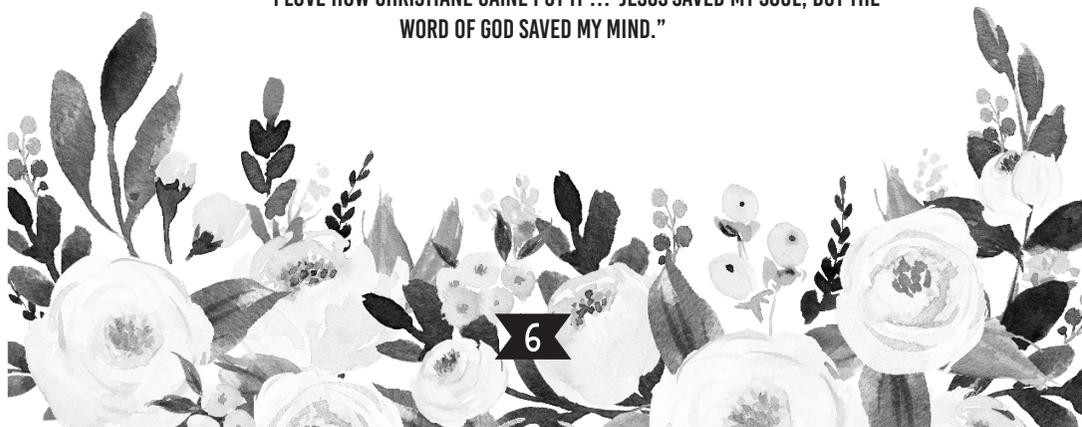
Psalm 119:34 (NLT)

It's not enough to know "what the Bible says", you have to know what does it say TO ME and what does it mean TO ME? And, what does the Lord want ME to do?

But here's the deal, it would be beneficial to you "to do" Bible study the way that YOU are wired. What works for me, may not work for you, We all have different learning styles and prefer different teaching methods. That is why we have put together a variety of practices and dynamics, so that YOU can follow one or put together the Bible study method that draws you closer to the Lord.

Seriously, daily Bible study has saved my (ever-lovin') life! Without it I would have long since lost hope, lost my mind, given up, walked away, drowned my pain with who knows what and my life would have spiraled out of control in destructive ways.

**I LOVE HOW CHRISTIANE CAINE PUT IT ... "JESUS SAVED MY SOUL, BUT THE
WORD OF GOD SAVED MY MIND."**



Here's the challenge the Lord has given me to share with women:

“20 MINUTES A DAY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!”

May I ask If YOU think your life would change if you spent 20 minutes a day with the Lord for the rest of your life? it certainly would! I am not saying your circumstances would change or people will change, but I am suggesting that YOU will change. And changing YOU is what the Lord is going for!

I hope THIS VERY DAY you will accept this personal challenge. No conditions, no reservations, no negotiations, no excuses – you just do it! To the best of your ability, do it every day.

YOU CAN DO IT! It takes only 21 days to create a habit. YOU ARE NOT ALONE! We are very excited to offer you tools, techniques, methods, helpful hints. Our prayer is that this little booklet will become a valued resource and you will fall deeper in love with the Lord through the study of His Word!

My life verse:

“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” Luke 1:45 (ESV)

WITH GREAT LOVE,

**DEBBIE STUART
WOMEN'S MINISTER
GREEN ACRES BAPTIST CHURCH**

Be social with us!

 /GREENACRESWOMEN

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Purpose



"Educators know learning cannot be pushed in to someone's brain -it must be pulled in by a willing mind." (Moody Publishing)

1. **TEACH** you how to fish. Weekly Bible studies at church are "feeding" you God's Word. We want you to feed yourself, so let's learn how to fish!
2. **ENGAGE** women in the personal, daily study and implementation (practicing) of God's Word.
3. **DESCRIBE** and explain Bible study tools, methods, techniques, helpful hints and best practices.
4. **ESTABLISH** a regular spiritual discipline that will last a lifetime and perhaps create a legacy, thereby setting up the next generation for spiritual success.

You have what you need most....

"For God is working in you giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." (Philippians. 2:13 NLT)

Benefits of Personal Bible Study

God's Word is a gift to you. let's learn HOW to unwrap it and use it. Reading and studying God's Word is one important way that God communicates to us. Our Bible study journals are how we talk to him. Record what the Lord draws your attention to, principles, promises and even your questions to God.

THIS HANDBOOK INCLUDES BEST PRACTICES, PRACTICAL TOOLS AND PROVEN ADVICE FOR MAKING GOD'S WORD A PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE.

And it can be SO FUN!





"All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

(2 Timothy 3:16-17 CSB)

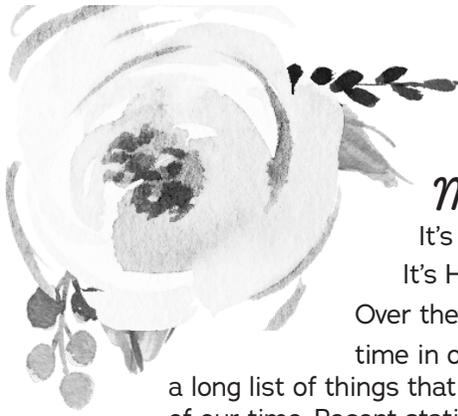
God's Word Offers...

- Salvation to the lost
- Freedom to the bound
- Focus to the distracted
- Love to the one who doesn't feel loved
- Connection to the one who feels isolated
- Strength to the weak one
- Deliverance to those who need to be set free
- Passion to the exhausted
- Perseverance to the shattered
- Success to the one who wants to quit
- Endurance to the one who can't go on
- Revelation to the one who hasn't heard Him in a while
- Breakthrough to the suffering
- Direction to the one who can't find his/her way
- Meaning to hard circumstances
- Special care to the caregiver
- Relief to those experiencing pain
- Courage to the scared
- Comfort to the grieving
- Stability to those in uncertain times
- Anchor to those in the storm
- Calm to the depressed
- Rest to the weary
- Power to the weak

**GOD FILLS THE EMPTY PLACES,
MENDS THE BROKEN-HEARTED,
RESTORES THE YEARS THE LOCUSTS HAVE
EATEN, RETURNS THE PRODIGALS, OPENS
DOORS AND SO MUCH MORE! BECAUSE HE
IS GOD AND HE DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE!
GET TO KNOW HIM!**

"see that you do not refuse Him who is speaking (to you)."

(Hebrews 12:25 NIV)



Making Time:

It's NOT How to FIND Time...

It's How to MAKE Time!

Over the past decade or so we have made time in our lives, schedules and priorities for a long list of things that we deemed important and worthy of our time. Recent statistics show that we have made upwards of **8 hours a day** in a 24 hour time period.

THINGS WE HAVE MADE TIME FOR INCLUDE:

Pinterest, Netflix, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, Amazon Prime (oh yeah!). We now tweet, chat, post, blog, podcast, Facetime, share, Roku, Yahoo, Hulu... I don't know what all we do, but it is out of control and we find ourselves saying, "I just don't have time for Bible study." I am not suggesting that any of those things are wrong or right - I am asking if it is the best use of your time? Does it add value to your life and family?

*"The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.
The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.
They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.
By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward."
(Psalm 19:7-11, NIV)*

Getting Started



Show Up

**THE HARDEST THING IN THIS WHOLE PROCESS IS NOT
"HOW TO DO IT" IT IS DOING IT. HALF THE BATTLE IS
SHOWING UP TO MEET WITH THE LORD. DON'T BE A NO SHOW!**

**"REPENT, THEN, AND TURN TO GOD, SO THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE WIPED
OUT, THAT TIMES OF REFRESHING MAY COME FROM THE LORD..."**

ACTS 3:19 (NIV)

Prepare

YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Let others know of your commitment and ask for accountability.

YOUR PLACE

Make a special space to spend time with the Lord. May I suggest that it not be a comfy, cozy recliner but perhaps a desk and chair.

Become a student of God's Word.

YOUR SCHEDULE

Set a time. Make an appointment with the Lord. Set reminders or timers.

YOUR SUPPLIES

Have your Bible open, get a notebook, index cards, pens, and highlighters.

YOUR MIND

Determine what book of the Bible, passages, people, principles you will study.

YOUR BODY

Be still, get quiet, focus, remove distractions, talk and listen to the Lord.

YOUR HEART

Seek forgiveness (repent), worship the Lord,
ask for His help as you study.



"So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them."
(Luke 8:18 NLT)

Pray

- Consider your Posture. Praying on your knees if possible is a great position of surrender.
- Pray Scriptures. Turn God's Word into prayers.
- Pray for Others.

Practice

- Determine the personal application of the Scriptures you have read.
- What Action Step(s) should you take? List them.
- Try memorizing Scripture by writing verses on index cards and keeping them close.

**AND GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE ABOUND TO YOU, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS AT ALL TIMES, HAVING ALL THAT YOU NEED, YOU WILL ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK.
2 CORINTHIANS 9:8 (PARAPHRASED)**

"Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
(Joshua 1:7-9 CSB)

Psalms

BY LISA ROSE

"Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors."

(Psalm 119:24 NIV)

ONE EFFECTIVE WAY TO BLOCK OUT DISTRACTIONS AND "SET YOUR MIND" IS TO BEGIN IN THE BOOK OF PSALMS IN THE BIBLE.

These powerful 150 chapters, found in the middle of your Bible, are prayers written as a reflection of who God is, what He has done and what He can do. The Psalms are real prayers written by real people and were for many throughout history the most authentic guidebook for prayer that exists. Let these verses still your heart as Lisa Rose demonstrates with examples how to pray through the Psalms.

Method

ASK GOD TO "OPEN YOUR EYES THAT YOU MAY SEE WONDERFUL THINGS IN HIS LAW;" (PSALM 119:18), SELECT A PSALM, AND:

1. **READ.**
2. **PRAY.** Personalize the prayer, and pray it aloud.
3. **LISTEN.** A verse tucked away in Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 says when you go to the "house of God ... let your words be few." So be quiet, and listen for direction or correction. What are you learning about God? What is He telling you to do? Who is He telling you to be?
4. **RECORD.** Write what God reveals in your journal.
5. **LIVE.** Ask God for a verse of the day, and carry it with you in a small notebook or on a post-it note. As you meditate on it, the truth it reveals will become part of who you are. You will begin to see your life transformed as a result of the living Word of God.

Note: Be sure to use your own Bible when doing these exercises. On Day 1, we listed the first Psalm for those who still need to get a Bible.

Day 1: Psalm 23

READ

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PRAY

Lord, You are my shepherd, and with you I lack nothing. Thank you for making me lie down in green pastures and

leading me beside still waters. Please restore my soul today I really need it. Guide me down your paths of righteousness in all you lead me to do. Whatever that is, I will not fear. Anoint me with the oil of your Holy Spirit. May goodness and mercy follow me all my days, and may I give others the goodness and mercy you have shown me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*some of the terms
in the Bible may be
new to you. It's okay
to look them up.*

LISTEN

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:9b)

- You really are my shepherd.
- Everything begins with You. You are my peace, my safety and my comfort.
- I don't ever have to be afraid.

RECORD

What is God telling me, and how will I apply it to my life?

LIVE

**ASK GOD WHICH SCRIPTURE HE WANTS YOU TO TAKE WITH YOU TODAY. MAYBE TODAY IT'S
VERSE 4: "EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE
DARKEST VALLEY, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL, FOR YOU ARE WITH ME."**

NOTE: If you don't already have a Bible, make sure you get one today. Tomorrow you will need to look up the Psalm. We're so proud of you for taking the time!

Day 2: Psalm 138

READ PRAY

I praise You this morning, Lord, with all my heart. Even though I may not feel like it, I will do it because You deserve it. I bow down to You and praise You for Your love and faithfulness. Thank you that You are faithful even when I am not. Lord, exalt Your name and Word in my life, in my family's life and in my work. May Your name and Word be my banner. Thank You for answering me when I call. And I pray You would make me bold and stouthearted in sharing You with others and in all the things You have planned for me to do. May presidents, kings and leaders of my country and the world hear Your voice and lead us in Your righteous ways. Please cause our leaders to hear You clearly and lead with righteous principles. Let Your voice speak louder than all the other voices they hear. I'm so glad You are on Your throne no matter what; I take myself off the throne of my heart today and put You on it. Crucify all pride in me. Please fulfill Your purpose for me, and may I not do anything to thwart Your plan. Thank You for never abandoning me, and may I believe You, love You and love others with the love You have for me, which endures forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

LISTEN

Lord, what do You have to say to me?

- I should exalt You in my life.
- Pray for my country and the world.
- He will fulfill his purpose for me.

RECORD

(Example) I'm keeping You from fulfilling Your purpose in me because of my sin, aren't I, Lord? Please forgive me for _____; help me turn from it and walk the path You have for me. Cleanse my heart. I choose today to turn. Thank You for being so kind in convicting me.

LIVE

Write in your notebook: "The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; Your Love endures forever."

Day 3: Psalm 125

READ

PRAY

Lord Almighty, I trust in You today. Thank You that I cannot be shaken. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, may You surround me and my family forevermore. I rebuke the evil scepters of the enemy - scepters of pride, confusion and fear. I will not let them remain in me; and in Jesus' name, I crucify pride, confusion and fear from my life. Thank You for Your promised land of righteousness, peace and joy. Surround me like the mountains surround Jerusalem, O Lord.
I receive that in Jesus' name.

LISTEN

Lord, what do You have to say to me? _____

RECORD

I will not be afraid. I turn over _____
to You, and trust that You surround me like the mountains surround
Jerusalem.

LIVE

Write in your notebook: "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so You shall surround me forevermore."

Day 4: Psalm 100

READ

PRAY

I shout to You today, for You alone are Lord. I will worship You with gladness and come before You with a joyful song. Lord, help me to know beyond a shadow of a doubt, that You are God. It is You who made me, and I am Yours. Thank You that I am one of Your people and a sheep in Your pasture. I enter Your gates today with thanksgiving and Your courts with praise. You are good, and Your love endures forever! I praise You for Your faithfulness.

LISTEN

Wow, Lord. You are awesome. I will stay thankful today: _____

RECORD

I'm going to take this day to not ask for anything. I will spend it with praise on my lips and thanksgiving in my heart because of who God is and for what He has done.

LIVE

What verse will you keep with you all day? _____

Day 5: Psalm 30

READ _____

PRAY

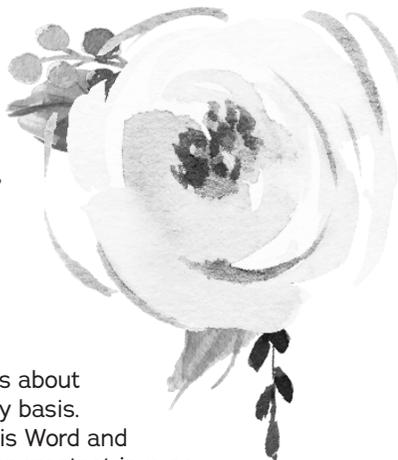
LISTEN

RECORD

LIVE

Studee

BY EMILY ADAMS



The Bible is a book about God. It is meant to teach us about who He is and how we can be more like Him on a daily basis. In order to know God, we need to seek Him through His Word and through prayer. Studying the Bible should be one of our greatest joys as Christians, as each time we do so, we learn a little bit more about our Father.

"With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

(Psalm 119:10-11 ESV)

As a former secondary English teacher, Emily Adams takes a more "educational" approach to studying the Word through analyzing the text and applying those conclusions to who God is and how His Word can be applied to our lives.

- S** START WITH PRAYER + SCRIPTURES
- T** TEXTUAL CONTEXT / TERMS
- U** UNWRAP WITH QUESTIONS
- D** DRAW CONCLUSIONS
- E** EXAMINE ATTRIBUTES
- E** END WITH APPLICATION



Method: STUDEE

<p>S</p> <p>START WITH PRAYER + SCRIPTURES</p>	<p>Pray and ask the Lord to reveal something to you in His Word. Read through the entire passage you are studying.</p>	<p>It is important to begin with prayer and create a reverent posture before the Lord. Remember, we are studying His Word to gain more understanding about who HE is, not about ourselves or to just gain knowledge. It is also important to read the passage all the way through. I even encourage, that if you are working your way through a book of the Bible, to start at the beginning of the book and read each time you sit down and study.</p>
<p>T</p> <p>TEXTUAL CONTEXT + TERMS</p>	<p>Determine the 5 W's and look up terms.</p>	<p>The 5 W's are: Who, What, When, Where, and Why. This requires a little research, but understanding the historical context of the book you are studying will really help in bringing full understanding of the text and who God is in each passage of Scripture. The Hebrew and Greek languages are so rich! Take time to look up words in the original language for greater understanding.</p>
<p>U</p> <p>UNWRAP WITH QUESTIONS</p>	<p>Understand the text by asking questions.</p>	<p>As you dig into a passage, write out questions either on your copy of the text or in a journal. This will help you process what you are reading. Use the cross references in your Bible to help answer your questions.</p>
<p>D</p> <p>DRAW CONCLUSIONS</p>	<p>Think about what you have read.</p>	<p>Based on all the information that you have gathered, what conclusions can you draw about the passage or set of Scriptures? It is helpful to write out what you are learning as you discover it.</p>
<p>E</p> <p>EXAMINE ATTRIBUTES</p>	<p>Consider the characteristics of God, and think critically about which apply.</p>	<p>Consider all that you have read and discovered about the passage, who is God in all of it? What are His characteristics? What has He done or said that stands out?</p>
<p>E</p> <p>END WITH APPLICATION + ACTION</p>	<p>End your time in prayer. Asking the Lord how to apply His Word to your life.</p>	<p>How can you apply what you have learned to your daily life and what will you do in response to what the Lord has revealed to you? Make sure to end in prayer.</p>



Meditate

BY JAIME CORNELIUS



START WITH PRAYER

Pouring myself out in prayer is an important place to begin my time with God.

READ THE SCRIPTURE ALOUD

One of my go to Scriptures is Psalm 51. This Psalm quiets my mind, allowing me focus on seeking Him.

SIT QUIETLY

Ask the Holy Spirit to bring anything to your mind that may be hindering your fellowship with Him. Allow Him to reveal it to you, confess it out loud, ask Him to forgive you. He is faithful to forgive when we are truly repentant. Positioning myself in a worshipful posture is key to get the most out of my time with the Lord. Some days I stay on a single verse, other days I cover a chapter. For me, it's not the quantity of Scripture I cover daily, it's being sensitive to the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to guide me.





REPETITION

Any book of the Bible I am currently studying, I listen to as I go through my day using my Bible app. I retain more Scripture if I can hear it over and over. This is helpful with Scripture memory as well.

DIG

When I start a new book of the Bible, I find the 5 W's: Who, What, When, Where and Why.

This gives me much-needed insight into what was taking place when this book was written. As I make my way through a book, I will incorporate other translations and paraphrase versions of Scripture, like the English Standard Version or the New Living Translation. It helps me gain the whole picture of the Scripture I am studying.

APPLICATION

I finish my time with two questions:

1. What does this chapter or verse tell me about God?
2. What should I do in response?

I read the same text over and over until I feel I have exhausted the chapter, then move to the next chapter. Studying Scripture has impacted me in ways I could have never imagined. God will bless your obedience in seeking time with Him daily.

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33 ESV)



FLAP

THIS specific “FLAP” method was fashioned by Debbie Stuart as her personal Bible Study method. **“THIS BOOK OF LAW SHALL NOT DEPART FROM YOUR MOUTH, BUT YOU SHALL MEDITATE ON IT DAY & NIGHT, SO THAT YOU MAY BE CAREFUL TO DO ACCORDING TO ALL THAT IS WRITTEN IN IT. (JOSHUA 1:8 ESV)**

Facts

WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY?

Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious facts. Don't get caught up in details. Don't paraphrase; use actual words from the passage, and list only facts.

Lessons

WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE MEAN?

Look at your list of facts. What do they suggest? What do the details indicate? What can you learn? Identify a lesson to learn from each fact, if possible. Focus on spiritual lessons.

Application

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE MEAN TO ME?

Rewrite the lessons from Step 2 in the form of questions. Ask yourself how the lessons apply to your life. What changes do you need to make? What has the Lord revealed to you or prompted you about? (use APPLICATIONS, Page 41)

Prayer

HOW DO I NEED TO RESPOND TO GOD?

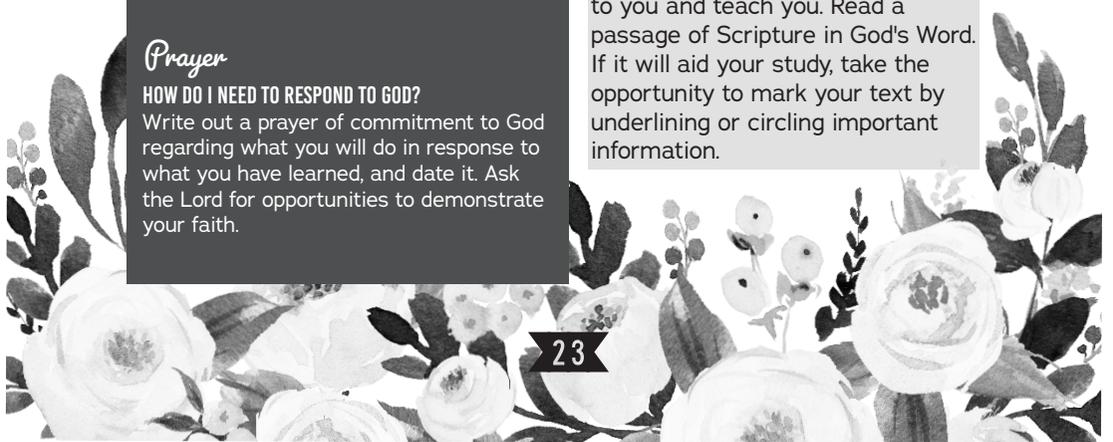
Write out a prayer of commitment to God regarding what you will do in response to what you have learned, and date it. Ask the Lord for opportunities to demonstrate your faith.

The details

were taken from Anne Graham Lotz's Bible Study Workshop, which can be found in Pursuing More of Jesus. Since it is a deeper, more intensive method of study, you will discover your time can quickly and easily be filled by studying just a few verses. It takes practice, but after you've gotten the hang of it, you will discover how the Word of God is a powerful tool in your daily life.

I love this

method of Bible Study, because it makes me think. My mind works in lists and processes, and this enables me to get the most out of my study time. It also makes it easy to apply biblical principles to my life. Begin by asking the Lord to speak to you and teach you. Read a passage of Scripture in God's Word. If it will aid your study, take the opportunity to mark your text by underlining or circling important information.





Day 1: Psalm 1:1-6

START BY READING THE TEXT: PSALM 1: 1-6

Facts

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY? (LIST ONLY THE FACTS OF THE VERSES, JUST THE FACTS)

- ¹ A person who does not walk, stand or sit with sinners will be blessed.
- ² He delights in the law of the Lord; he meditates on it day and night.
- ³ His life will be planted, fruitful; he will prosper.
- ⁴ The wicked will be like chaff and blown away.
- ⁵ The wicked and sinful will not stand in judgment with the righteous.
- ⁶ The Lord watches over the righteous; the wicked shall perish.

Lessons

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE MEAN? (DETERMINE LESSONS FROM LOOKING AT YOUR LIST OF FACTS)

- ¹ The blessed person does not hang out with sinners.
- ² He spends time in God's Word and thinks about it all the time.
- ³ His life is connected to God and produces good things.
- ⁴ Those that don't are useless, worthless and scattered.
- ⁵ They will have no place in Heaven on judgment day.
- ⁶ God protects, cares for, and guides those who obey Him.

Application

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME? (HOW CAN YOU APPLY THE SPIRITUAL LESSONS TO YOUR LIFE?)

- ¹ Am I following/obeying God? Or do I listen to and get advice from others? Who influences me? Am I hanging out with people that are following God? Are my life, actions, priorities, attitude and words different from non-Christians?
- ² Do I make God's Word priority in my life? Do I spend time with Him and think about what's important to Him?
- ³ The more you are connected with God, the more fruitful you will be. Do great things for God!
- ⁴ And if you don't, if you stick to what you want to do, when you want to do it, you will waste your life.
- ⁵ God has no place in Heaven for sinners. Do not refuse to give Him your life.
- ⁶ If I do these things, my life will be full of hope, joy and the blessing of God. He will be everything I need and want.

Prayer

HOW DO I NEED TO RESPOND TO GOD?

Lord, I commit to spend time with You daily. I will listen and obey You and hang out with those that do. I give You my life; please make it useful and productive for You!

Day 2: Joshua 1:1-9

Facts

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?

¹⁻² (combined for complete sentence) Now, Moses died, God spoke to Joshua and told him to get ready to cross the Jordan with the people to the land God is giving.

³ The Lord will give him every place he sets his foot.

⁴ Their territory will cover the wilderness, the desert, and even go through enemy territory.

⁵ God promised: No man will stand against him for his lifetime. God will be with him, and never leave him or forsake him.

⁶ _____

⁷ _____

⁸ _____

⁹ _____

Lessons

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE MEAN?

¹⁻² Now indicates an appointed time or SEASON of transition. The Lord spoke to a person and gave him an assignment and a promise.

³ God will give him everything he is willing to take.

⁴ God purposefully sends us to/through difficult, unknown places.

⁵ God gives him protection and His presence, always! He will not leave or forsake him = withdraw, abandon, neglect or let fall.

⁶ _____

⁷ _____

⁸ _____

⁹ _____

Application

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

¹⁻² Lord, please speak to me about my life and what You have for me to do. Is it time for old things to go so I can start a new way of living?

³ Walk on; take all that God wants to give you. Don't settle!

⁴ Difficulties/opposition are part of His plan for my life. Don't whine. God's work done God's way will bring God's supply and success.

⁵ _____

⁶ _____

⁷ _____

⁸ _____

⁹ _____

Prayer

HOW DO I NEED TO RESPOND TO GOD?

Lord, You have given me instructions and promises, and I am completely dependent on You. I know success does not lie in my own abilities but is given only as I obediently walk with You.

Day 3: Jonah 1:1-17

Facts

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?

¹⁻² Now, the Lord gave Jonah a message: Get up, go to Ninevah, announce my judgment. I have seen their wickedness.

³ But Jonah went the opposite direction to flee the presence of the Lord. He found a ship going to Tarshish; he bought a ticket AND got on board to get away from the Lord.

⁴ But the Lord suddenly hurled a great wind and caused a violent storm that threatened to break up the ship.

⁵ The sailors were afraid, the sinner was asleep. They tried everything to calm the storm.

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

11 _____

12 _____

¹³⁻¹⁴ Instead they tried harder but couldn't make it. They cried to Jonah's God not to kill them for his sin. The Lord did as He pleased.

¹⁵ They picked him up, threw him over, and the storm stopped.

¹⁶ They were awestruck by God's greatness and vowed to serve Him.

¹⁷ Now, the Lord had arranged/appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and he was in the fish three days and three nights.

Lessons

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE MEAN?

¹⁻² There is an appointed time for us to get up and do something. The Lord was clear about his instructions/assignment.

³ God's servant didn't want to do what God asked him to do, and he ran in the opposite direction. He used money to get away from God.

⁴ His disobedience caused a violent storm and endangered others.

⁵ People tried desperately to calm this dangerous storm/problem.

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

11 _____

12 _____

¹³⁻¹⁴ Human effort will never solve a spiritual problem.

¹⁵ A radical intervention: Jonah didn't jump; he was picked up and thrown over. Then the storm stopped.

¹⁶ The people realized how awesome God was and followed Him.

¹⁷ God dealt with his disobedience and put him in a "hard place" for a while.

Day 4: John 15:1-8

Facts

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

Lessons

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE MEAN?

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

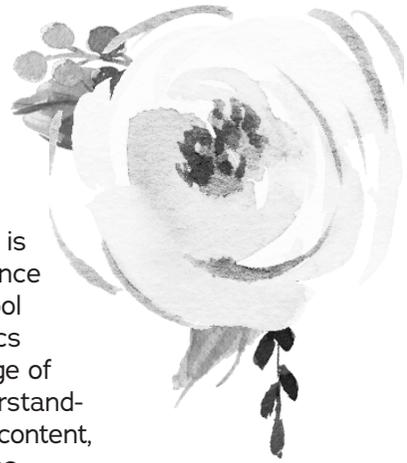
Application

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

Prayer

Homiletics



Homiletics is defined as the art of preaching. It is a method taught to seminary students to enhance sermon preparation. However, it is a valuable tool for any Bible student or Bible teacher. Homiletics is a method of analyzing and applying a passage of Scripture, which results in gaining deeper understanding of the passage. It consists of five sections: content, divisions, subject sentence, aim, and applications.

Before beginning homiletics, PRAY, then read the entire passage. (More than one reading would be helpful!)

I. Content

A. EXPLANATION:

- This section is a list of 10 to 20 items that are the main details in the passage.
- As you read, group verses according to details.
- Begin each item with the verse numbers and write a brief summary of those verses.
(See example below)
- Be concise, but not so concise that significant details are omitted.
- The items are comprised of facts, not your interpretation of the Scripture!
- They do not need to be complete sentences. Use words, phrases, abbreviations, OR even your own symbols.
- The main goal is to shorten the passage, while retaining significant details. Hint: longer passages require more summarizing.

B. EXAMPLE:

Matthew 2

I. Content

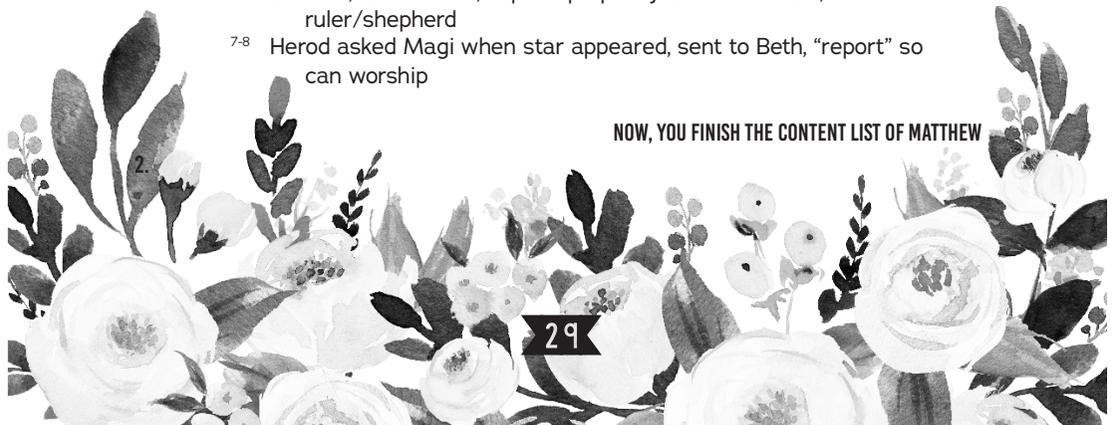
1-2 Magi from east Herod; inquire of new King so can worship him

3-4 Herod (Jeru) disturbed, asks rel leaders where Christ to be born

5-6 Leaders, "Bethlehem,"--quote prophecy: Beth. not least, out of ruler/shepherd

7-8 Herod asked Magi when star appeared, sent to Beth, "report" so can worship

NOW, YOU FINISH THE CONTENT LIST OF MATTHEW



II. DIVISIONS

A. EXPLANATION:

- Using the content list, group the verses into 2 to 4 divisions. Which verses naturally flow together? Look for changes in
- subject, character, location, etc.
- Write a brief, complete sentence that summarizes the details of each division.
- This sentence is based on facts, not interpretation!
- Follow the sentence with the verses included in the division.

B. EXAMPLE:

In the content list below, I have included a space to show which verses I grouped together. Your grouping could be different. Great! Homiletics is an individual exercise, so rarely does one's homiletics match another's.

Matthew 2

I. CONTENT

- 1-2 Magi from east Herod; inquire of new King so can worship him
- 3-4 Herod (Jeru) disturbed, asks rel leaders where Christ to be born
- 5-6 Leaders, "Bethlehem,"--quote prophecy: Beth. not least, out of ruler/shepherd
- 7-8 Herod asked Magi when star appeared, sent to Beth, "report" so can worship
- 9-10 Overjoyed Magi follow star to house where child is
- 11 Magi see child/ Mary, bow, worship, present gifts
- 12 Dream warns Magi--don't go to Herod, return another way
- 13 Angel warns Joseph--flee to Egypt b/c of Herod's plot
- 14-15 Joseph obeys immediately, stays til Herod's death, fulfilling prophecy out of Egypt called son
- 16-18 Furious Herod kills boys 2 and under, fulfilling Jeremiah's prophecy: Rachel weeping for children, refusing comfort
- 19-21 Herod dies, angel tells Joseph to return to Israel; he obeys
- 22-23 Joseph warned in dream not to go to Judea; goes to Galilee/ Nazareth, fulfilling prophecy. He called Nazarene

SO, I GROUPED VERSES 1-8, VERSES 9-18, AND VERSES 19-23. HERE ARE MY SENTENCES FOR THE FIRST TWO DIVISIONS:

II. DIVISIONS

- A. A star guides Magi to Herod, then to Bethlehem to worship the newborn King. (2:1-12)
- B. God guides Joseph to Egypt to escape Herod's murderous plot. (2:13-18)
- C. Now, you write a complete sentence for Division C (verses 19-23).

III. Subject Sentence

A. EXPLANATION:

- A grammatically correct sentence of 10 words or less that states the subject of the passage. (Yes, only 10 words!)
- Try to include in the sentence something that will identify the passage. (By looking at your sentence, can you tell where the passage is located?)
- Use the division sentences to help form the subject sentence. Try to include some aspect of each division in the subject sentence.
- The sentence is composed of facts, not interpretation.

B. EXAMPLE:

God protects worshipping Magi and Joseph's family from Herod's hate.

C. ENCOURAGEMENT:

Forming a subject sentence is initially difficult, but with time and practice it gets easier. So, don't give up! This step is beneficial. It helps clarify the main focus of the passage.

IV. The Aim

A. EXPLANATION:

- The aim is the main spiritual truth or lesson from the passage that you want your audience (you!) to learn.
- It is a clear, definitive truth/lesson that is supported throughout the Bible.
- Look for a truth that is woven throughout the divisions of your passage.
- Then, write a sentence stating the aim, beginning the sentence with CATL (Cause audience to learn) or CMTL (Cause me to learn).

B. EXAMPLE:

CATL...that God guides seekers to worship Jesus and protects His own.

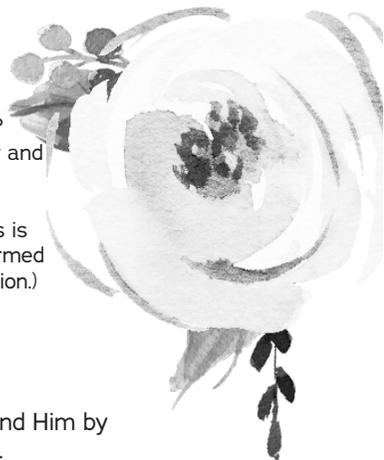
V. Application

A. EXPLANATION:

- Now we get to the heart of homiletics. The applications are questions that cause the audience (you!) to internalize the truths or lessons from the passage. Even as one must apply medicine to a wound for healing, so one must apply Scripture for personal transformation!
- Write one question for each division that is based on a truth found in that group of verses. (You might want to write the truth first and then the question. That will help you solidify truths from the Scripture!)
- Write questions aimed at heart and mind transformation, since heart changes result in behavior changes.
- Write reflective questions—ones that require more than a yes/no answer.

For example:

- » Are you in the habit of daily Bible study? (This question requires a yes/no answer and is focused on behavior.)
- » How has consistent study of Scripture impacted your daily conversations? (This is a reflective question focused on transformed thinking; therefore, it is a stronger question.)



B. EXAMPLE:

DIVISION A:

TRUTH: Those who sincerely seek Jesus will find Him by responding to the light they are given.

APPLICATION: What is your response to the truth that Jesus Christ is King?

DIVISION B:

TRUTH: Obedience leads to God's care, protection, and guidance.

APPLICATION: How is God using your present trial to deepen your dependence upon Him?

DIVISION C:

Write one truth and one application question.

CONCLUSION:

Homiletics is a valuable tool for any student or teacher of the Bible.

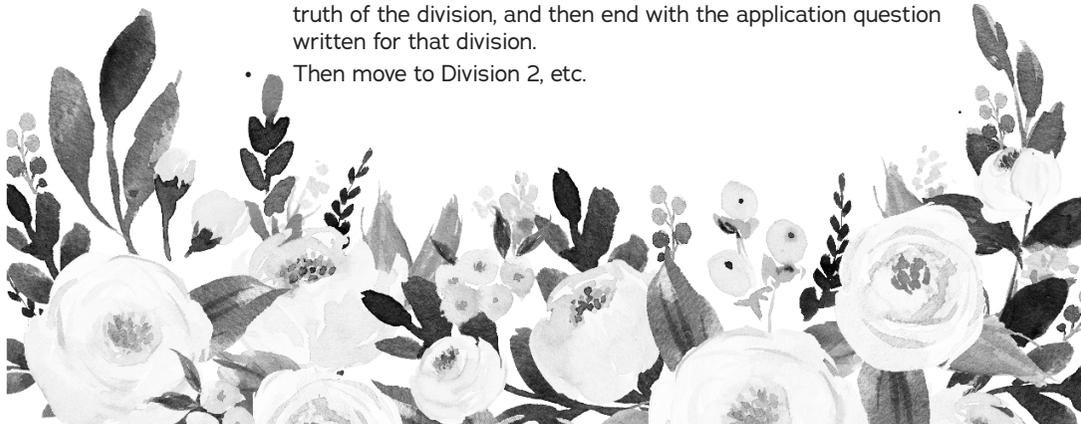
BIBLE STUDENT:

Using homiletics in your daily Bible study will deepen your knowledge of Scripture and, therefore, deepen your knowledge of God. It will clarify God's truths and help you apply God's Word to your life.

BIBLE TEACHER:

Using homiletics will result in more effective teaching. Begin with your aim. "Today we are going to learn..."

- Move to Division 1. Cover the content of the division. State the truth of the division, and then end with the application question written for that division.
- Then move to Division 2, etc.



The challenge

“THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU, THE MIGHTY WARRIOR WHO SAVES. HE WILL TAKE GREAT DELIGHT IN YOU; IN HIS LOVE HE WILL NO LONGER REBUKE YOU, BUT WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH SINGING.” (ZEPHANIAH 3:17 NIV)



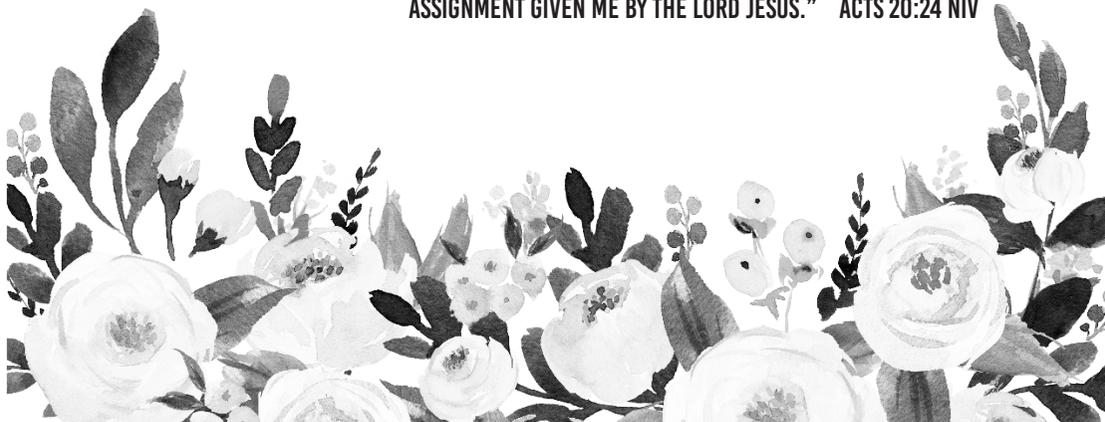
*If you seek Him,
you will find Him!*

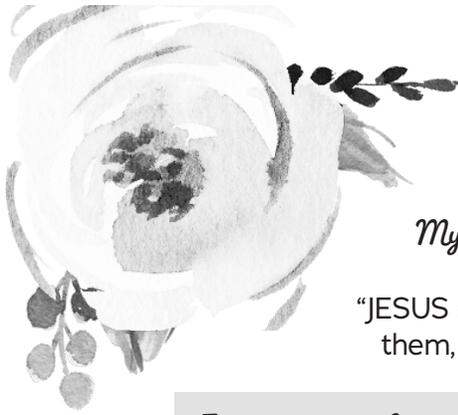
The Bible says in James 4:8 – “Come close to God, and God will come close to you.” (NLT)

So what will YOU do with God’s Word?
Our Challenge to you is: 20 Minutes a Day for the Rest of Your Life!

We have prayed the Lord would personally and uniquely reveal Himself to everyone who reads through this handbook and begins to put a process in place for seeking the Lord.

“I COUNT MY LIFE WORTH NOTHING UNLESS I USE IT TO ACCOMPLISH THE ASSIGNMENT GIVEN ME BY THE LORD JESUS.” ACTS 20:24 NIV





New Life

My Sheep Hear My Voice

“JESUS said, “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me...” (John 10:27, ESV)

If we want to hear God's voice,

we need to be one of His sheep. You may have attended church all your life but still feel something is missing. If you've got religion, but you're missing out on the relationship with Jesus, then consider these truths that lead to salvation, and watch the progression:

“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD (YOU) THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.” JOHN 3:16



“ ... FOR ALL HAVE SINNED, AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.” ROMANS 3:23



“FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE FREE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.” ROMANS 6:23



“BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS: WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.” ROMANS 5:8



“IF YOU DECLARE WITH YOUR MOUTH, 'JESUS IS LORD; AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED.” ROMANS 10:9

You can pray a prayer like the one below, or use your own words:

"Lord Jesus, I know I'm a sinner, and I'm so sorry. I don't deserve it, but You say You love me; and You died on the Cross in my place, so I don't have to die. I know I can't do life on my own. I believe it. I believe You are the Son of God and Savior of the world. So, I trust You now for my eternal life and forgiveness of my sin. Take control of my life right now. I accept Your free gift of salvation. Live in my heart and life. I offer You sincere praise.

In Jesus' name, my Savior, Amen."



Resources & More Methods



Recommended resources

BIBLE STUDY: FOLLOWING THE WAYS OF THE WORLD, Kathleen B. Nielson

BIBLE STUDY METHODS, Rick Warren

DAILY LIGHT, ANNE Graham Lotz

ESV STUDY BIBLE, Crossway

ESV SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY STUDY BIBLE, Crossway

HOLMAN ILLUSTRATED BIBLE DICTIONARY, Holman

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE, John MacArthur

MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST, Oswald Chambers

PRAYING GOD'S WORD, Beth Moore

THE NEW HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE, Kay Arthur

WOMEN OF THE WORD, Jen Wilkin

We recommend two Zodhiates books as a starting point for Bible Study. They are comprehensive and condensed into one resource. (They only come in King James Version)

1. THE COMPLETE WORD STUDY OLD TESTAMENT BY SPIROS ZODHIATES

2. THE COMPLETE WORD STUDY NEW TESTAMENT BY SPIROS ZODHIATES

- They each have Strong's Exhaustive Concordance built in.
- Words are marked above each one with the Strong's number.
- Verbs-- tense, voice, and mood are explained and also marked.
- Zodhiates also has expanded definitions in a separate section for some of the important words.

Helpful Websites

WWW.BIBLEGATEWAY.ORG

WWW.BLUELETTERBIBLE.ORG: OFFERS DEFINITIONS IN GREEK AND HEBREW

WWW.GREENACRESWOMEN.ORG

WWW.PRECEPT.ORG

WWW.YOUVERSION.COM

WWW.ANNEGRAHAMLOTZ.ORG

WWW.PROVERBS31.ORG

WWW.THEDAILYGRACECO.COM

WWW.ENCOURAGING.COM

Engaging Podcasts

ASK ME ANYTHING WITH JD GREER

DAILY GRACE

HELP ME TEACH THE BIBLE WITH NANCY GUTHRIE

JOURNEY WOMEN

KNOWING FAITH

TGC PODCAST

THE BIBLE PROJECT

Daily prayer pattern

JESUS told His disciples how to pray with the Lord's prayer in Luke 11 :2-4. So, if you need help getting started, you could include the following elements, which are in the Lord's guideline for prayer:

**LET THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDE YOU
AS HE BRINGS TO MIND AREAS
FOR WHICH TO PRAY.**

The acronym "ACTS" can help you remember these prayer elements. However, just as conversations vary with our friends, our

conversations with the Lord will vary. These elements aren't meant to be a rule; think of them simply as a guideline to get started.

ADORATION FOR GOD

CONFESSION OF SINS

THANKSGIVING IN EVERYTHING

SUPPLICATION (PRAYER REQUESTS)

ADORATION & PRAISE

- Praise God for who He is (characteristics and names of God)
- Worship and adore Him

CONFESSION & REPENTANCE

- Ask God to search your thoughts and attitudes
- Carefully examine your speech
- Resolve to fully repent of any known sin of thought, word or deed

THANKSGIVING

- Past, present and future blessings

PERSONAL PETITION

- Pray for character development and holiness (fruit of Spirit)
- Pray for your ministry, service to God (ask Him to reveal and use His gifts through you)
- Pray for physical, emotional, spiritual or financial needs

INTERCESSION

- Pray for needs of family and friends
- Pray for your pastor and church leaders
- Pray for specific lost people

MEDITATION

- Reflect on key points from your Scripture reading and prayer time
- Write down personal impressions in a daily journal

"Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope." (Ephesians 3:20 NLT)

Bible study applications

For personal application of God's Word, after you read the text, ask the Lord some of the following questions. Sit still. Be quiet. Listen for His voice.

Write what He reveals. Obey His prompting.

- A Is there an **ATTITUDE** to adjust?
- P Is there a **PROMISE** to claim?
- P Is there a **PRIORITY** to change?
- L Is there a **LESSON** to learn?
- I Is there an **ISSUE** to resolve?
- C Is there a **COMMAND** to obey?
- A Is there an **ACTIVITY** to avoid?
- T Is there a **TRUTH** to believe?
- I Is there an **IDOL** to tear down?
- O Is there an **OFFENSE** to forgive?
- N Is there a **NEW DIRECTION** to take?
- S Is there a **SIN** to **CONFESS**?



Passage study worksheet

Here is another way to glean all you can from a passage of Scripture.

Date: _____

Scripture reading for today: _____

Big idea / main principles: _____

Interesting insights / recurring theme or words: _____

Important verse(s): _____

APPLICATIONS: _____

Things that stand out to me: _____

I believe God is telling / showing me ... _____

My response: _____

Study: People

These are suggestions if you're interested in focusing on specific people in the Bible. See the worksheet on Page 42 to help guide you.

Women

SHORT REFERENCE

Rahab: Joshua 2
Hagar: Genesis 16
Hannah: Samuel 1
Shunammite Woman: 2 Kings 4:8-11
Jael: Judges 4:17

IN-DEPTH REFERENCES

Sarah: Genesis 17 & 18
Mary: Matthew 1
Ruth: Book of Ruth
Eve: Genesis 3 & 4
Deborah: Judges 4 & 5

Men

SHORT REFERENCES

Gideon: Judges 6
Naaman: 2 Kings 5
Caleb: Numbers 13, 14; Joshua 14
Habakkuk: Book of Habakkuk
Samson: Judges 14

IN-DEPTH REFERENCES

Job: Book of Job
Nehemiah: Book of Nehemiah
Saul: 1 Samuel 9
David: 1 Samuel 16 & 17
Joshua: Book of Joshua

*" 'For I know the plans I have for you,'
declares the Lord, 'plans to
prosper you and not to harm you, plans to
give you a hope and a future.' "*
(Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

People worksheet

Date: _____

Person: _____

What kind of impact did they have on others: _____

Important things about them or their actions: _____

Was God pleased with them? Why or why not? _____

What can you learn about how God (or the enemy) used them or their circumstances?

Big idea / main principles: _____

APPLICATIONS: _____

I believe God is telling / showing me ... _____

My response: _____

Study: Issues & Principles

The concordance section in the back of your Bible organizes Scripture based on topic.

There will be times you want to study biblical principles and issues you face. See the worksheet on page 44 to guide you.

For a list of 100 topics, we also recommend June Hunt's "Counseling Keys" at www.hopefortheheart.org.

Addictions	Giving	Prodigals
Adultery	God's will	Purity
Anger	Grief	Rape
Attitudes	Guilt	Reconciliation
Baptism	Healing	Self control
Bitterness	Homosexuality	Serving others
Contentment	Hope	Sin
Debt	Identity in Christ	Spiritual gifts
Depression	Infertility	Spiritual warfare
Disappointment	Joy	Submission
Discipline	Leadership	Suffering
Disobedience	Loneliness	Suicide
Envy	Love	Temptation
Evangelism	Lust	Ten Commandments
Evil	Materialism	The Beatitudes
Faithfulness	Mentoring	The Lord's Prayer
Fasting	Mustard seed	Trials
Fear	Peace	Waiting on God
Flesh vs. Spirit	Perseverance	Weariness
Forgiveness	Pornography	Worry
Fruit of the Spirit	Praying	Worship

"Consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." (James 1:2-3 NIV)

Issues & Principles worksheet

Date: _____

Issue: _____

Principle: _____

Place(s) this is found in Scripture: _____

Big idea / main principles: _____

Interesting insights / recurring theme or words: _____

Important verse(s): _____

APPLICATIONS: _____

Things that stand out to me: _____

I believe God is telling / showing me ... _____

My response: _____

Study: Promises

At times you will want to learn what God promises His children.

GOD

Romans 8:37-39
Ephesians 2:4-5
1 John 1:9
Psalm 34:17-18
Psalm 23

LIFE

1 Timothy 4:12
Philippians 3:10
Jeremiah 17:7-8
James 1:5
Mark 12:29-30

GUIDANCE

Isaiah 58:11
Proverbs 16:1,3
Romans 12:2
Psalm 32:8
Joshua 1

WISDOM

2 Timothy 3:15-17
Isaiah 43:2
Ephesians 6:10-12
James 1:5
James 3:17

RELATIONSHIPS

1 Peter 3:8-9
James 5:16
Romans 12:17-18
Colossians 3:12-13
Hebrews 6:10-11

Note: Psalms and Proverbs are considered the wisdom books of the Bible and offer the readers guidance, direction, and instruction for living a life that honors God.

"Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled." (Joshua 21:45 NIV)

Promises Worksheet

Date: _____

Scripture reading for today: _____

God's promise: _____

Big idea / main principles: _____

Interesting insights / recurring theme or words: _____

Important verse(s): _____

APPLICATIONS: _____

Things that stand out to me: _____

I believe God is telling / showing me ... _____

My response: _____



resources

Study: Digging Deeper

HERE ARE SOME MORE HELPFUL QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE READING SCRIPTURE:

What did you **LIKE** in the story (or passage)?

Which character did you most **RELATE TO** and why?

What **CONFUSED** or **BOTHERED** you?

What did you learn about God? List some **ATTRIBUTES**.

What did you learn about **PEOPLE**? List **PROBLEMS** or **ATTITUDES**.

What were they **DOING** you should be doing?

What **LESSON** did you learn?

How should you **CHANGE** in your life as a result of what you learned?

"Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them." (Psalm 125:5-6 NIV)

Life
Lesson

"Sow in tears," from the Scripture above, indicates we keep moving forward! It doesn't say "sit" in tears. We hope this tool helps you to "continually go forth" (even if while weeping) believing God's Word!

10 Ways to Find 20 Minutes:

1. Layout your stuff the night before.
2. Organize your day a little better.
3. Lunch and Learn: bring your lunch and enjoy some quiet time with the Lord.
4. List: make a to-do list to save time.
5. Plan - grocery store from 10-11, out the door at 10:50, plan meals.
6. Schedule - your online time.
7. Wake up: Don't hit the snooze.
8. Combine activities - grocery store, then pick up kids.
9. Delegate - find how you can share responsibilities with others (example: have your kids do some chores!).
10. Adjust schedule - go to bed 10 mins early, move alarm up 10 mins. Use the extra time to prioritize God's Word.



SEEK and FIND:

1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually

1 Chronicles 22:19 Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

James 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Proverbs 8:17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

Psalms 14:2 The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

Psalms 63:1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Psalms 119:10 With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!

Luke 11:9 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Isaiah 55:6 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.

Deuteronomy 4:29 But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Jeremiah 29:12-13 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Bible Reading Plan

Taken from A Call to Growth by Billy Hanks Jr.

Ephesians	
Day	Chapter: verse
1	1: 1-14
2	1: 15-23
3	2: 1-10
4	2: 11-22
5	3: 1-13
6	4: 1-16
7	4: 17-32
8	5: 1-21
9	5: 22-33
10	6: 1-9
11	6: 10-24

Philippians	
Day	Chapter: verse
12	1: 1-11
13	1: 12-30
14	2: 1-18
15	2: 19-30
16	3: 1-11
17	3: 12-21
18	4: 1-9
19	4: 10-23

Colossians	
Day	Chapter: verse
20	1: 1-14
21	1: 15-23
22	1: 24-29
23	2: 1-12
24	2: 13-23
25	3: 1-17
26	3: 18-25
27	4: 1-6
28	4: 7-18

1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians	
Day	Chapter: verse
29	1: 1-10
30	2: 1-12
31	2: 13-20
32	3: 1-13
33	4: 1-12
34	4: 13-18
35	5: 1-11
36	5: 12-28
37	2 Thess. 1: 1-12
38	2 Thess. 2: 1-12
39	2 Thess. 2: 13-17
40	2 Thess. 3: 1-15
41	2 Thess. 3: 16-18

1 Timothy	
Day	Chapter: verse
37	1: 1-11
38	1: 12-20
39	2: 1-15
40	3: 1-16
41	4: 1-16
42	5: 1-10
43	5: 11-25
44	6: 1-10
45	6: 11-21

2 Timothy	
Day	Chapter: verse
46	1: 1-18
47	2: 1-13
48	2: 14-26
49	3: 1-9
50	3: 10-17
51	4: 1-8
52	4: 9-22

Bible Reading Plan Continued

Titus and Philemon	
Day	Chapter: verse
53	Titus 1: 1-16
54	Titus 2: 1-15
55	Titus 3: 1-15
56	Philemon 1: 1-25

James	
Day	Chapter: verse
57	1: 1-18
58	1: 19-27
59	2: 1-13
60	2: 14-26
61	3: 1-12
62	3: 13-18
63	4: 1-12
64	4: 13-17
65	5: 1-12
66	5: 13-20

1 Peter	
Day	Chapter: verse
67	1: 1-12
68	1: 13-25
69	2: 1-12
70	2: 13-25
71	3: 1-7
72	3: 8-22
73	4: 1-11
74	4: 12-19
75	5: 1-14

2 Peter	
Day	Chapter: verse
76	1: 1-11
77	1: 12-21
78	2: 1-12
79	2: 13-22
80	3: 1-18

1 John	
Day	Chapter: verse
81	1: 1-10
82	2: 1-14
83	2: 15-29
84	3: 1-10
85	3: 11-24
86	4: 1-6
87	4: 7-21
88	5: 1-12
89	5: 13-21

2 John, 3 John and Jude	
Day	Chapter: verse
90	2 John 1: 1-13
91	3 John 1: 1-14
92	Jude 1: 1-16
93	Jude 1: 17-25

Precepts



God's eternal, inerrant Word is your guidebook for all of life, and inductive study gives you the key to understanding that guide. Inductive study, a method that brings you directly to the Word of God, apart from another's understanding or interpretation of the text, involves three skills: observation, interpretation, and application.

See more about Inductive Bible Study on the next two pages.



INTERPRETATION *discover what it means*

While *observation* leads to an accurate understanding of what the Word of God says, *interpretation* goes a step further and helps you understand what it *means*. As you seek to interpret the Bible accurately, the following guidelines will be helpful:

1 Remember that context rules.

If you lay the solid foundation of observation, you will be prepared to consider each verse in the light of the surrounding verses, the book in which it is found, and the entire Word of God. As you study, ask yourself: Is my interpretation of this passage of Scripture consistent with the theme, purpose, and structure of the book in which it is found? Is it consistent with other Scripture about the same subject? Am I considering the historic and cultural context? Never take a Scripture out of its context to make it say what you want it to say. Discover what the author is saying; don't add to his meaning.

2 Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God.

When you know God's Word thoroughly, you will not accept a teaching simply because someone has used one or two isolated verses to support it. You will be able to discern whether a teaching is biblical or not. Saturate yourself in the Word of God; it is your safeguard against wrong doctrine.

3 Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture.

Remember, all Scripture is inspired by God. Therefore, Scripture will never contradict itself. Sometimes, however, you may find it difficult to reconcile two seemingly contradictory truths taught in Scripture, such as the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man. Don't take a teaching to an extreme that God doesn't. Simply humble your heart in faith and believe what God says, even if you can't fully understand or reconcile it at the moment.

4 Don't base your convictions on an obscure passage of Scripture.

An obscure passage is one in which the meaning is unclear or not easily understood. Because these passages are difficult to understand even when proper principles of interpretation are used, they should not be used as a basis for establishing doctrine.

5 Interpret Scripture literally.

God spoke to us that we might know truth. Therefore, take the Word of God at face value—in its natural, normal sense. Look first for the clear teaching of Scripture, not a hidden meaning. Understand and recognize figures of speech and interpret them accordingly.

Consider what is being said in the light of its literary style. For example, you will find more similes and metaphors in poetical and prophetic literature than in historical or biographical books. Interpret portions of Scripture according to their literary style.

Some literary styles in the Bible are: Historical—Acts, Exodus; Prophetic—Revelation, Isaiah; Biographical—Luke; Didactic (teaching)—Romans; Poetic—Psalms; Epistle (letter)—2 Timothy; Proverbial—Proverbs

6 Look for the single meaning of the passage.

Always try to understand what the author had in mind when you interpret a portion of the Bible. Don't twist verses to support a meaning that is not clearly taught. Unless the author of a particular book indicates that there is another meaning to what he says, let the passage speak for itself.

APPLICATION *discover how it works*

The first step in application is to find out what the Word of God says on any particular subject through accurate observation and correct interpretation of the text. Once you understand what the Word of God teaches, you are then obligated before God to accept that truth and to live by it.

Scripture will always teach what is right, show us where we are wrong, how to correct, and train us in right living, so that we are complete, fully equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Find others in your area who are studying God's Word inductively. Call 800.763.8280 or email info@precept.org



Bible Study Helps:

BEFORE STUDYING:

- Determine where and when to study
- Find a place that is private where you will have as few interruptions as possible
- Choose the best time for daily consistency
- Remove distractions
- Pray
- Ask God to teach you from His Word.
- For example, Psalm 119:18: "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law."

WHILE STUDYING:

- Begin with Scripture only
- Allow the Holy Spirit to teach you instead of relying on commentaries or study helps
- Begin by reading a few verses. Then meditate upon those verses.
- Don't worry about what you don't understand. Instead, focus upon what you do understand, trusting God will teach you what you need to know
- Don't take Scripture out of context. Keep in mind what the author intended the passage to mean
- Write a truth or lesson you learn from the passage
- What do you learn about the character and ways of God?
- What do you learn about the character and ways of people, believers, or unbelievers?
- What commands, promises, warnings, or challenges are in the passage?
- Evaluate the truth you have written
- Does it present a proper, high view of God?
Is it consistent with teaching throughout Scripture?
Is it timeless? (Will it be as true 10 years from now as it is today?).

While Studying continued...

- Apply the truth you have written
- Apply the truth specifically to your life
- How does this truth impact or challenge your thinking and daily activity?
- How will you incorporate this truth into your daily life?
- What characteristic about God or promise of God brings comfort or strength in your present circumstance?
- What command is God asking you to obey?
- How does this passage challenge or convict you?
- Introduce other study helps
- Study a commentary or other useful material. (Keep in mind, only the Word of God is inspired and infallible. So, be a Berean! Examine the Scripture to see if what the author says is true! Acts 17:11)
- Remember that the best commentary on Scripture is Scripture. Use a concordance to cross-reference other Scripture.
- Find a reliable website with commentaries, sermons, or study helps. For example: preceptaustin.org, blueletterbible.org, biblegateway.com, bible.org

After Studying

- Continue to meditate upon what God has taught you.
- “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” Joshua 1:8
ESV





Attributes of God

ACCESSIBLE
CREATOR
ETERNAL
FAITHFUL
FORGIVER
GLORIOUS
GOOD
GRACIOUS
GUIDE
HOLY
IMPARTIAL
IMMANENT
IMMUTABLE
INCOMPREHENSIBLE
INFINITE
INVISIBLE
JEALOUS
JUST
LIFE
LONG-SUFFERING
LOVE
MAJESTIC
MERCIFUL
OMNIPOTENT
OMNIPRESENT
OMNISCIENT
ONE
PEACE
PERFECT
PERSONAL
POWERFUL
PRESERVER
PROVIDER
RIGHTEOUS
SAVIOR
SELF-EXISTENT
SELF-SUFFICIENT
SHEPHERD
SPIRIT
SOVEREIGN
TRANSCENDENT
TRUTH
WISE
WRATH



Dig into Attributes

It is important to remember that the Bible is a book about God, and as we read, we should seek to learn more about Him and who He is. One way to do this is to think about who God is in a the passage you are studying. The following is a helpful way to look at the character of God during your study time.

1. Look up the attribute in the dictionary.
2. Look up the attribute in the original Greek or Hebrew.
3. See where else in Scripture the Lord exhibits that attribute.
4. List the different ways the Lord displays that attribute in the passage you are studying.
5. Using the information you have discovered, write out a prayer to the Lord thanking Him for who He is.



Literary Techniques and the Bible

The Bible is made up of different genres: historical narrative, parables, law, poetry, wisdom literature, and prophecy. It can be helpful, at times, to take an educational approach to the text in order to understand what is being said. Within the pages of Scripture, figurative language is used, as well as transition words, to convey a meaning or purpose. Below, you will find an overview of a few elements that can be a helpful refresher for your Bible study time.

Figurative Language

IMAGERY is the use of figurative language to create visual representations of actions, objects and ideas in our mind in such a way that they appeal to our physical senses.

EXAMPLE: Leviticus 1:6-9

The imagery of each part of the animal teaches us the following: The head signifies one's thoughts and judgments; the fat, one's general health, energy, and strength; the entrails, one's emotions; and the legs, one's walk, the actual conduct of one's life. Again, the burnt offering indicates total surrender to God; nothing is held back; nothing is reserved for the self (John W. Ritenbaugh).

SIMILE AND METAPHOR: Both compare two distinct objects and draws similarities between them. The difference is that simile uses "as" or "like" and metaphor does not.

EXAMPLES:

"The kingdom of heaven is **like** treasure hidden in a field."
Matthew 13:44

"The teaching of the wise is a **fountain of life.**"
Proverbs 13:14

ALLEGORY is a literary technique in which an abstract idea is given a form of characters, actions or events.

EXAMPLES: The parables taught by Jesus.



Transition Words

THEREFORE
SINCE
BUT
SO

These are examples of transition words used throughout Scripture. They should signal you to connect what you just read to what you are about to read. If you begin reading a passage that begins with one of these words (or an additional transition word), it is encouraged that you read the passage of scripture before **FIRST** so that you do not miss an important biblical lesson.

FOR EXAMPLE,

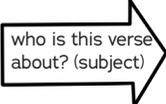
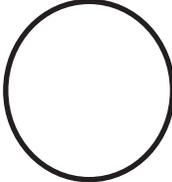
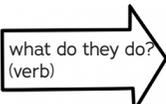
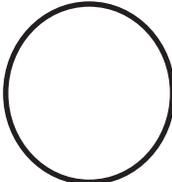
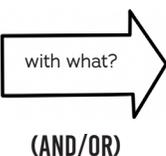
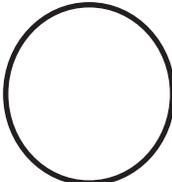
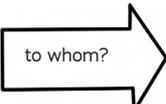
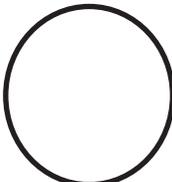
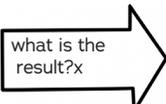
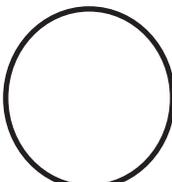
Matthew 4:4, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

We know from the full Scripture that man should live by every word of God.

Verse Diagramming

DIRECTIONS: WRITE THE VERSE YOU WANT TO DIG INTO ON THE LINES BELOW. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS FROM THE ARROWS IN THE CIRCLES. IN THE TEXT BOX, YOU WILL EXPAND THE CIRCLE ANSWERS BY USING BLUELETTERBIBLE.ORG OR YOUR THESAURUS TO LOOK AT SYNONYMS AND RELATED WORDS.

Verse: _____

Take away truth: _____

Verse Mapping

WRITE IT

- Read the passage slowly and carefully - and more than once!
- Read in more than one translation.

MAP IT

Highlight What Stands Out
Underline Context
Circle Words to Define
Box Cross References
Make Commentary Notes [...]

SUMMARIZE IT

Summarize what you have learned about the verse or passage in a few sentences.

APPLY IT

- Something to start doing?
- Something to stop doing?
- Something to seek counsel about?
- Something to praise God for?

PRAY IT

Go to the Lord in prayer about what you have learned. Thank Him for the gift of His Word and ask Him how to apply its teachings to your life.

Prayer Power

Prayer from Lead Me, Holy Spirit
by Stormie Omartian



Lord, I thank You that by the power of Your Spirit You have given me Your Word. I see it is impossible to know You without knowing it. I ask that Your Holy Spirit, who inspired the writing of the Scriptures, will bring it alive in my mind and my heart every time I read or hear it. Make every verse clear to my understanding so that I have a deeper comprehension of the full meaning of each one. Help me to retain it. Prepare me with Your Word so that I am complete and thoroughly equipped for everything You have for me to do.

Strengthen me with knowledge of Your truth and help me to obey what You have said to do. Teach me what I don't understand. Make Your Word become part of the fabric of my being. Weave it into my soul so that it forms who I am. Illuminate each word and give me knowledge that I could not have on my own. Help me to hear Your voice speaking to me every time I read it. I don't want to be a person who turns my ear away from hearing Your law so that my prayers become an abomination (Proverbs 28:9). I want the peace You have promised to those who love Your ways (Psalm 119:165). Your Word is perfect- changing me, making me wise, bringing me joy, and flooding my life with light (Psalm 19:7-8).

In Jesus' name I pray,

Amen



notes



notes



notes





Contributors

DEBBIE STUART

Debbie Stuart serves as the GABC Women's Minister. She previously served as Lifeway Christian Resources National Women's Ministry Trainer, Vice President of Hope for the Heart June Hunt, Director of Church and Leadership Development for Women of Faith, Director of Women's Ministry at Prestonwood Baptist Church, and Director of Women's Ministry for Willow Point Baptist Church. Debbie has multiple publications under her name, including two books: *20 Minutes a Day for the Rest of Your Life* and *20 Lessons Learned from 20 Minutes a Day*. She was also a writer for Lifeway and WomensMinistryTools.org and Women's Devotional. In addition, Debbie is very honored to be the recipient of the Legends Award 2017, Women of the World 2015, Shining Star Award recognizing Outstanding Women in Leadership 2011, and a national conference speaker and Bible teacher. Debbie is married to John Mark Stuart. In this book: *FLAP, Benefits of Personal Bible Study, 10 Ways to Find 20 Minutes, Seek and Find, New Life, and All Worksheets.*

JAN BURKHART

Jan joined GABC 42 years ago, right after she and Don married. They have three married daughters and, most importantly, five grandchildren who call her Marmee. Jan was on the first Women's Ministry board of GABC. She served in BSF leadership for over 30 years, including 17 years as the Teaching Leader of the Tyler day class and eight years as an Area Advisor. After retiring last year, Jan stays busy writing, traveling, playing with grandchildren, and training her chocolate lab, Duke. In this book: *Homiletics, Bible Study Helps, and Attributes of God.*

JAIME CORNELIUS

Jaime Cornelius holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Texas at Tyler and has been a Sunday school teacher, Bible study facilitator, camp counselor and Kidz Praise leader. Jaime and her husband, Matt Cornelius, have five children. In this book: *Meditate*

EMILY ADAMS

Emily Adams holds a B.S. in Education from Baylor University and a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University. Prior to joining Green Acres Women, she taught middle school and high school English for almost a decade. Emily is the owner of Faith Prints where she has published a one-week study over the book of Joshua and several devotionals. She has also published devotionals online with encouraging.com. Emily enjoys painting, writing, and reading, and is passionate about using her gifts to serve the Lord. She continues to use her teaching abilities in the One-Ten Student Center on Sunday mornings and with Green Acres Women on Tuesdays. She and husband Jake have two sons. In this book: *STUDEE, Dig into Attributes, Literary Techniques and the Bible, Verse Diagramming, and Verse Mapping.*

LISA ROSE

Lisa Rose is a lover of the Lord Jesus. She is passionate to see women walk with the Lord, navigate life's challenges and fulfill the purpose in God has given them. She, along with others, were called by the Lord to create a safe place for women coming out of crisis. Thus, The Gate House was built. The Gate House is a community where women and children leaving a crisis receive safe refuge, ample time, practical resources, and healthy relationships to discover new paths for permanent change. www.Gatehousegrapevine.com
In this book: *Psalms*

www.greenacreswomen.org

