

# SEE FOR YOURSELF\*

**SUPPLEMENTAL  
RESOURCES**

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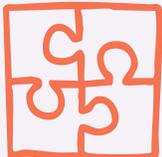
# AT A GLANCE: STUDY OVERVIEW

The following chart provides a snapshot of the whole study. It outlines the purpose and direction of each session, and highlights the skills you'll build along the way.

## PART 1: WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  <p>SESSION ONE</p>   | <p><b>PURPOSE:</b> to connect us with God and His people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It's a relational book!</li><li>• <b>Skills:</b> Read with prayer; Read with people</li></ul>  |
|  <p>SESSION TWO</p>   | <p><b>STRUCTURE:</b> A library of 66 books and one big story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It's arranged categorically, not chronologically.</li><li>• <b>Skills:</b> Read whole books of the Bible; Read with the big story in mind</li></ul>                |
|  <p>SESSION THREE</p> | <p><b>FOCUS:</b> God is the main character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Bible is for you; it's just not about you.</li><li>• Transformation happens when we look at God, not ourselves (2 Cor. 3:18).</li><li>• <b>Skills:</b> Read to see God</li></ul> |

## PART 2: HOW DO I STUDY THE BIBLE?

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  <p>SESSION FOUR</p> | <p><b>STEP 1:</b> Observe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ask:</b> "What does the text say?"</li><li>• <b>Skills:</b> reread, mark, write observations, illustrate</li><li>• <b>Remember this:</b> Observation is the most important step and the most tempting to skip.</li></ul>   |
|  <p>SESSION FIVE</p> | <p><b>STEP 2:</b> Interpret</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ask:</b> "What does the text mean?"</li><li>• <b>Skills:</b> ask questions, consider the context, review cross-references, look for Jesus</li><li>• <b>Remember this:</b> You can find Jesus through problems He solves, promises He fulfills, pictures that point to Him.</li></ul>         |
|  <p>SESSION SIX</p>  | <p><b>STEP 3:</b> Apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ask:</b> "What do I do now?"</li><li>• <b>Remember this:</b> I can't. Jesus did. With Him I can.</li><li>• <b>Skills:</b> apply the gospel, apply every passage, apply in community<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Confession, encouragement, prayer, accountability</li></ul></li></ul> |

## PART 3: WHAT ABOUT WHEN...?



### SESSION SEVEN

#### I DON'T UNDERSTAND

- Confusion is normal.
- Be a lifelong Bible reader.
- Don't try to learn everything all at once.
- **Skills:** stay relational (bring God your honesty and questions), look for God, read with others, learn the structure, identify what you can know for sure



### SESSION EIGHT

#### I DON'T LIKE WHAT IT SAYS

- Discomfort is normal.
- The Bible reveals God.
- The Bible is rewriting your worldview.
- Don't ignore or redefine what you don't like.
- **Skills:** bring the real you to the table, pray the psalms, remember God's wisdom and love, stay in the light



### SESSION NINE

#### I DON'T HAVE TIME

- We can all make time.
- God wants to be with you.
- You were made for God.
- Time is the most valuable Bible study tool you have.
- Gradual growth is the best growth.
- Time with God isn't optional.
- **Skills:** assess your schedule, make a plan, determine your nos, deal with distractions, put it on your calendar



# ADDITIONAL TOOLS

What you've learned in this study should equip you to study your Bible confidently and joyfully! But if you want to dig a little deeper, here are a few tools you can use. Many of these resources can be found in good study Bibles and are also available for free online! Scan the QR code to get links and see tutorials of how to use them.



|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>English Dictionary</b>     | Bible translators pick each word in our Bibles carefully as they seek to faithfully represent the original language. So, you can gain amazing insight into what the Bible says by getting the full definitions of English words. Consider: If you come across a word in the Bible you couldn't define to a child, look it up in a dictionary. Try it now by looking up a few of these words from the Bible: exalt, contempt, reproof, exhort, heritage.   |
| <b>Bible Dictionary</b>       | A Bible dictionary is a reference book that gives definitions and background information on key terms in the Bible. If you're a novice Bible reader, this can help you get an overview of new words or concepts you encounter, such as sanctification, righteousness, wrath, judgment, angels, heaven, and so forth.  |
| <b>Maps</b>                   | One amazing thing about the Bible is that as we read it, we're not only learning about God and connecting with Him, we're also reading historical accounts of real people and real places. These places matter. If I told you I traveled from New York City to Chicago, but made a pit stop in Atlanta, you'd have questions, right? Because Atlanta is not on the way to Chicago. Knowing the places mentioned in the Bible can give us these kinds of helpful insights. You can purchase a Bible atlas or find lots of great maps for free online.  |
| <b>Timelines</b>              | In Week 2, we learned that the Bible is arranged by category, not chronologically. And because many of these books were written around the same time in history, it can be hard to keep track of the chronology of events. Being able to reference a biblical timeline can help us keep things straight. You can buy timelines, locate them in study Bibles, or find some online for free.  |
| <b>Commentaries</b>           | A commentary is written by a Bible scholar and provides insights into the text based on that scholar's study and research in the Bible—and sometimes in related texts like early church history documents or other historical documents. A commentary can provide valuable insight and answer a lot of our questions about the meaning and structure of the text. However, we need to keep in mind that a commentary is one scholar's view. And the conclusions the scholar draws can be influenced by various factors, including personal doctrinal views. Check out our <i>Clearly</i> podcast on commentaries for more information. See the link to the podcast on page 114. |
| <b>Creeds and Confessions</b> | Early church creeds can often be very helpful. They provide wonderful, rich summaries of major biblical doctrines such as the Trinity and the nature of Jesus Christ.   |

# MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

The Bible encourages us to store up God's Word in our hearts (Deut. 6:6-9; 11:18; Ps. 119:11). But memorizing Scripture doesn't come easy to most of us. So, listed below are a few memorization ideas to try out. Since all of us are wired differently, feel free to try each of these suggestions and see what works for you.

**FIRST LETTER METHOD** Write the first letter of each word on a notecard.

For example, John 3:16 would be:

**FGLTWITWHGHOAOSSTEWBIHWNPBHEL.**

Try saying the verse a few times using these first letters as clues. Then try doing it from memory.

**WRITE IT OUT** Copy the verse(s) into a journal three or more times. Look at the verse less each time until you can write it strictly from memory.

**SHOWER METHOD** Print or write out the verse(s). Then, put that paper into a gallon zip bag, upside down. You can hang it up in the shower using condensation. Once the walls of the shower are wet, stick the back on the wall with the zip part down. (It gets too heavy if the zip part is on top.) Every time you shower, reread the passage and try saying it out loud without looking.

**SING IT** There are lots of great songs in which the lyrics are word-for-word Scripture. Though many are meant for children, they have helped me memorize so many verses and passages! Here's a list of some of our favorites: *Sing the Bible* by Slugs and Bugs, *The Corner Room*, and music by Poor Bishop Hooper. You can also make up your own melodies. Songs are a great tool to help us remember!

**DRAW IT** Doodle or draw the words to the verse. Or write the words on top of an image or illustration. Anything that puts the words in more concrete, visual spaces will help you remember them.

# BIBLE STUDY BOOKMARK

Cut along the dotted line to detach this two-sided bookmark to use in your continued study of Scripture.

## OBSERVATION

### NOTICING THE TEXT

- 1 Underline all verbs.
- 2 Double underline command verbs.
- 3 Circle key words or phrases.
- 4 Highlight repeated words or phrases.
- 5 **Box connecting words.**  
COMPARE: and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so  
CONTRAST: but, rather, yet, however  
PURPOSE: that, so that, in order that  
RESULT: that, so that, as a result, with the result that  
CAUSE: because, since, for  
EXPLANATION: for  
INFERENCE: therefore, for this reason  
CONDITION: if
- 6 Number lists, series, sets of words.

## INTERPRETATION

### INVESTIGATING THE TEXT

- 1 Pray Psalm 119:18.  
“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”
- 2 **Ask questions.**  
WHO... WHERE...  
WHAT... WHY...  
WHEN... HOW...
- 3 Consider the context.
- 4 **Let the Bible explain the Bible.**  
Look up cross-references to see how other parts of the Bible shed light on this passage.
- 5 **Look for Jesus.**  
PROBLEMS: Are there any problems only Jesus can solve?  
PROMISES: Are any promises made that are fulfilled in Jesus?  
PICTURES: Is there any foreshadowing of Jesus through events, objects, people, or places?

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## APPLICATION

### LIVING THE TEXT

#### 1 APPLY TO THE HEAD

- Do I have any incorrect thoughts about God that need to change?
- Is this passage revealing a truth about God or the gospel that I need to believe?
- What false beliefs do I need to turn from?
- Is there a verse or passage on which to memorize or meditate on?

#### 2 APPLY TO THE HEART

- Is there something to worship God for or thank Him for?
- Is this passage exposing sin, self-trust or self-worship, that needs to be confessed?
- Is this passage exposing problems in my emotional life?
- Where is repentance needed?

#### 3 APPLY TO THE HANDS

- What action steps do I need to take today, empowered by the Holy Spirit?
- What would my life look like if I believed the meaning of this text? How different is that from my life now?
- Is there someone to pray for or something to pray about?
- Who can I share this with?

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