

BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN



EVERY DAY IN THE BIBLE

DELIGHTING IN THE
WHOLE WORD OF GOD
IN 52 WEEKS

MARY WILEY

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LIFEWAY WOMEN

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MARY WILEY is a bestselling author and Bible teacher, who also serves as the associate publisher at B&H Publishing. She spends her days reading, writing, and shaping messages centered on the life-giving Word of God in all of these roles. She holds a master's in theological studies from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and is pursuing a PhD in the same, focused on reading the Bible well and delighting in its beauty.

Mary is the author of *Everyday Theology: What You Believe Matters*, which was The Gospel Coalition's 2020 Bible Study & Devotional Literature Book of the Year, as well as *Our Highest Good: 90 Days of Knowing and Loving God* and three titles for kids to grow in their biblical literacy: *Discovering the Bible: A Kid's Guide to Reading and Understanding God's Word*, *Life as a Christian*, and *The Gospel Story*, which received the Evangelical Christian Publishing Association's platinum award for selling more than one million copies.

There's nothing she loves more than being wife to John and mom to four: Caleb, Nora Kate, Addie, and Wells. She lives with her family in Lebanon, Tennessee, where she finds it an absolute joy to serve her local church in women's and kids' ministry. She loves good books, strong coffee, and classic art. She'd love to connect on social media @marycwiley or at www.marycwiley.com.

NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Dear friend,

To open God's Word with you across a year is an absolute honor. I have been deeply changed by God as I've read His Word, and I pray you, too, will be transformed more and more into the image of Christ as the year goes on. May He teach us, convict us, comfort us, and compel us as we meet Him in these pages. I'm a proponent of having a varied Bible study approach that includes both studying fast and studying slow: Studying fast by reading through the Bible so that you get a flow of the whole with its themes and connections, and then studying slow by spending extended time in a single book or concept, moving slowly and soaking up every detail. We don't have time to cover some details as we study fast this year together, and I hope as we go, you'll make a note of those books or concepts in Scripture that you want to study slow later. I cannot wait to hear what you learn this year and how God uses His Word in your life!

Before we jump in, here are a few things you should know:



ABOUT THE READING PLAN

VARIED SPEEDS: The reading plan is designed to keep you reading, and to provide some days that are heavier and some days that are lighter. I know life happens, and you may miss a day here or there, so I built a plan that gives you a little breathing room along the way. And if you find that you fall a bit behind and struggle to catch up, just keep reading. Finish in a year or a year and a few days or two years or more. No matter when you finish this plan, you will have read the entirety of God's Word, and His promise is to meet us as we seek Him there. Enjoy His presence and His Word as you read!

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS: We'll read a Gospel together at the start of each quarter so that we stay grounded in the gospel story and reminded that all the Bible is about Jesus.

FULL BOOKS, OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW TESTAMENT TOGETHER:

The reading plan is arranged to help you read in a way that Jesus discussed on the Road to Emmaus. Luke 24:27 says it this way, “Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures.”

We’ll start with John, which is often recommended to new Christians as the first book to read in the Bible, but it’s also my very favorite! John sets the stage for how we are to interpret the Old Testament, even from the very beginning as it echoes Genesis 1:1 with “In the beginning,” so we’ll read Genesis after we read John. Then, we’ll explore Exodus and Leviticus alongside Hebrews, which helps us understand what to do with the laws, feasts and festivals, and tabernacle set up in those books. Then, we’ll read Numbers and Deuteronomy and then Romans, exploring the themes of law and grace. We’ll continue this pattern, reading books sequentially that share similar concepts.



ABOUT THE WEEKLY RHYTHM

Each week will include five pages of interactive content in this Bible study book. Here’s how to best use them:

1 Every week begins with an overview of what to expect in the reading for the week and a reminder of what to look for in the text. A daily guide and a memory verse or passage for the week are also listed on the first page.

2 The second and third pages, titled *As You Read*, will be used throughout the week to summarize your learning each day. Record key insights or questions there so that you can discuss them and reflect on them at the end of the week. Then, consider what truths are present in the Scripture you read. How is God revealing Himself through those truths? What insights do you want to remember? What questions have you answered, and what questions still remain? I’m so thankful God has invited us to ask our questions, big and small, and I believe it is so fruitful to ask as many questions as we can about the text and do our best to

answer them—whether that means exploring surrounding texts, asking a trusted friend or pastor, or seeking additional help in commentaries. Learning that sticks is learning that we discover on our own, so ask questions! It’s where the lasting learning lives.

3 On the third page, you’ll see boxes for the main idea and praying Scripture. For the main idea, you’ll sum up all the passages you read in a few sentences. For weeks where the reading spreads across multiple books, you might choose to include a main idea for each book. When you think of the main idea, think of how you would answer the question, “What is that book about?” if you were asked by a stranger who saw you reading.

And after the main idea, you’ll write a prayer reflecting on the week. You can pray prayers verbatim from the reading (we’ll read many prayers throughout our time together) or you can walk back through what God has revealed about Himself throughout the week’s learning and pray in accordance to those truths. We’ll model this every day on the podcast as well.

4 The fourth page may be a short article or a chart that deepens your learning. You may find that reading this at the end of the week is most fruitful, or you may choose to read it before you begin reading.

5 Lastly, the fifth page each week has a list of questions for you to review what you’ve read and reflect on the truth found there. These questions can be answered on your own or with a small group who can discuss the week’s Scripture with you.



ABOUT THE PODCAST

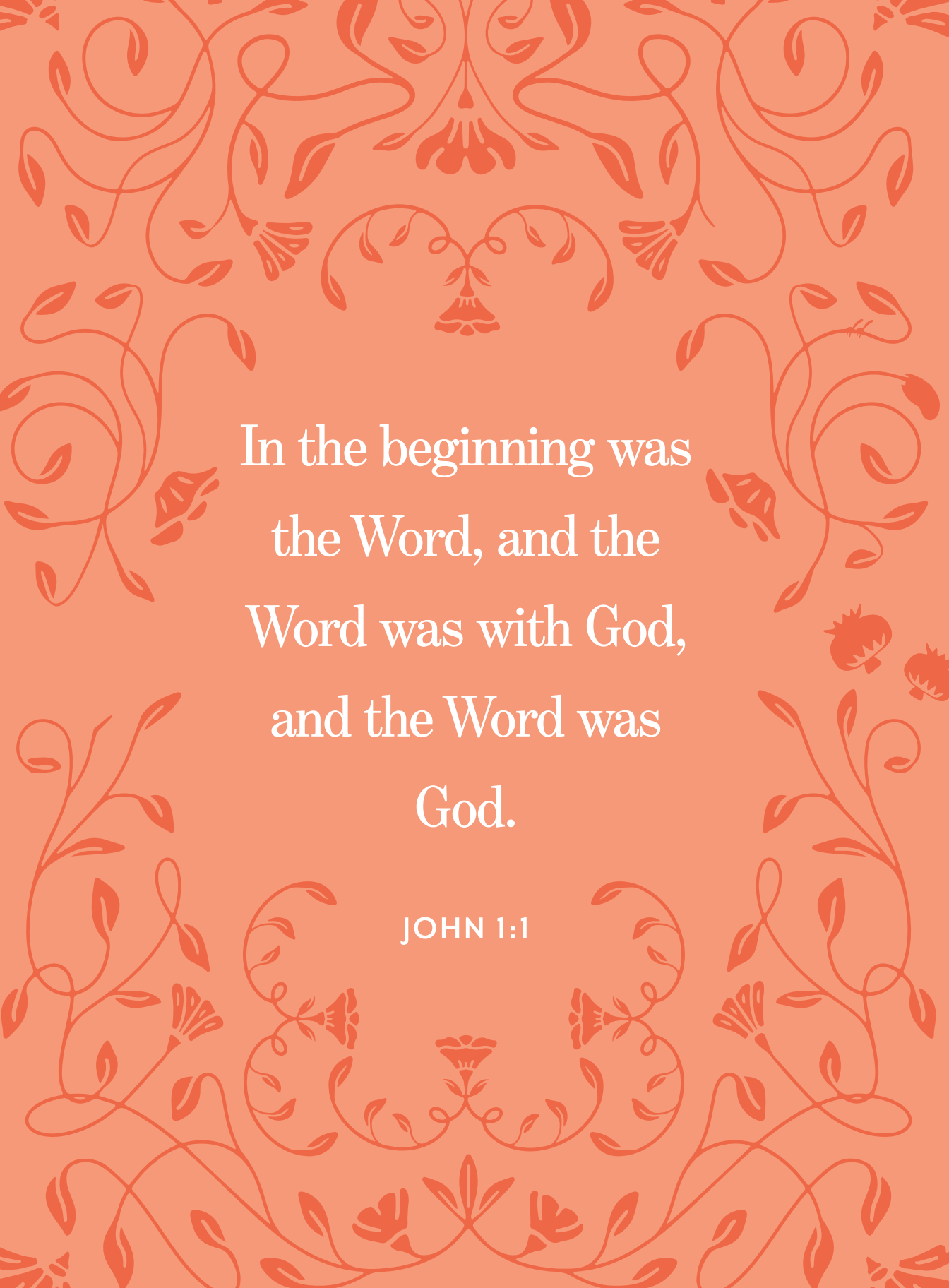
Every day, there will be a podcast episode to fuel your learning. The *Every Day in the Bible* podcast will include a reading of the day’s Scripture passage as well so that we can do as Deuteronomy 6 instructs, thinking and talking about God’s Word as we come and go, as we do dishes, and

as we drive to work. We'll read the text together, and then I'll walk back through the passages exploring themes and connections to other parts of the Bible. Finally, we'll pray together.

The podcast and this book are meant to work together, providing you with both a place to reflect and record your own insights as well as hear more in depth commentary on the passages you're reading.

You can find the podcast at lifeway.com/everydayinthebible or by searching "Every Day in the Bible" wherever you enjoy podcasts.

It is an honor to walk this journey with you, learning together and encouraging one another in the faith through spending time in God's Word. I know this is a commitment of time and effort, and I'm asking that God take our meager offerings and multiply them for His kingdom's sake. I'm asking God to change us and to change our continued hunger for the things of God and for His Word as we taste and see that He is good again and again. Thank you for joining me!



In the beginning was
the Word, and the
Word was with God,
and the Word was
God.

JOHN 1:1

WEEK 1 JOHN 1-10

LIGHT AND LIFE TO ALL HE BRINGS

John 1:1 begins just as Genesis 1:1 does: “In the beginning . . .” John is reorienting our thoughts around creation. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, bursting forth in color and beauty, through His Son, Jesus—the Word. And He does not create and step away, but enters into creation Himself—made of flesh and bone, fully human while also being fully God. This is the type of God we serve: He is near, crossing the divide between Creator and creature that we could not cross so that He might be light and life to all. He is the light because light is what allows us to see, and to look at Christ is to see the fullness of God. We were incapable of knowing God on our own, so God Himself took on flesh, speaking words and performing signs that we could understand. The glory of the Old Testament tabernacle was dim in light of Jesus’s coming to “tabernacle,” or dwell, with us. God has come! He is light, revealing God so that we may know Him and bringing light into our dark world and our dark minds. All of Scripture comes into focus in this moment.

John’s goal in writing was so that “you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31). This is why we begin in John. The Son is the One through whom we have light and life, the One through whom all the Bible comes into particular focus because it is all about Jesus.



Read

- DAY 1: John 1
- DAY 2: John 2-3
- DAY 3: John 4
- DAY 4: John 5
- DAY 5: John 6-7
- DAY 6: John 8-9
- DAY 7: John 10

Memorize

- JOHN 3:16-17

WRITTEN BY

John the Disciple

WHEN?

Between AD 85-95

GENRE

Gospel

AS YOU READ

As you read this week, underline, highlight, or note how often John highlights Jesus as the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Lamb of God, the One who is the Bread of Life and the Light of the world. Also note any sign Jesus performs or any “I am” statement from Jesus.

John 1

John 2–3

John 4

John 5

John 6–7

John 8-9

John 10

Main Idea of This Week's Reading

Pray the Scripture



7 SIGNS

Throughout his Gospel, John reveals Jesus as the promised Messiah. He chooses seven signs to highlight this.

1 TURNING WATER INTO WINE AT A WEDDING AT CANA (JOHN 2:1-12)

Jesus used the jars meant for ceremonial purification to provide for the need at this wedding. His first recorded miracle illustrated the new covenant brought through His blood, not through the old covenant ceremony, often associated with wine. A new kind of cleansing for the marriage of God and His people had come to pass.

2 HEALING THE OFFICIAL'S SON (JOHN 4:46-54)

Jesus healed from afar with words. Like at creation, Jesus only spoke the words and life sprang forth.

3 HEALING THE PARALYTIC AT BETHESDA (JOHN 5:1-16)

A man is miraculously healed by the spoken words of Jesus, but the scandal of it all was that to take up one's mat and walk was prohibited on the Sabbath by Jewish law, but not by biblical law. Jesus proves His authority over all—laws, days, life, and health.

4 FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND (JOHN 6:1-15)

Jesus feeds a multitude, meeting their physical need and demonstrating that He is the One who is the Bread of Life, which will not spoil or leave us hungry again.

5 WALKING ON WATER (JOHN 6:16-21)

Jesus went to His disciples as the One with power over the norms of creation. This instance holds thematic parallels with the Red Sea story in Exodus when God revealed His power by parting the seas.

6 HEALING THE MAN BORN BLIND (JOHN 9:1-12)

Jesus came to heal our physical ailments as well as our spiritual blindness so that we might see Him and His ways.

7 RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD (JOHN 11)

Jesus revealed He can raise people from the dead, not just physically, but He also brings God's people from death to life through His blood.¹



REVIEW AND REFLECT

What is the good news in this week's passages?

How do the passages show Jesus is both God and man?

How do these passages show God's great love for His people?

READ JOHN 1. How does Jesus taking on flesh in all its brokenness encourage you this week?

Review your highlights or noted passages. How do these references emphasize that Jesus is truly the Messiah? (If you are familiar with the Old Testament story, consider how some of the ways Jesus is described might connect to it.)

How does Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus in chapter 3 reveal Jesus is the Messiah? **READ NUMBERS 21:4-9** to be reminded of the story Jesus refers to in John 3:14-15.

In John 6:30-35, Jesus calls Himself the Bread of Life, just like the manna that sustained the Israelites in the wilderness (see Ex. 16). How have you seen Jesus provide for and sustain you or someone you know?

What questions are still unanswered from your week of study?

**Spend time thanking God for His Word
and the truths you've read this week.**

WEEK 2 JOHN 11–21

SO THAT WE MIGHT BELIEVE



Read

- DAY 1: John 11
- DAY 2: John 12–13
- DAY 3: John 14–15
- DAY 4: John 16–17
- DAY 5: John 18
- DAY 6: John 19–20
- DAY 7: John 21

Memorize

- JOHN 20:30-31

WRITTEN BY

John the Disciple

WHEN?

Between AD 85–95

GENRE

Gospel

John continues his mission in the last half of the book focused on presenting the good news about Jesus “so that you may believe” (Jn. 20:31). In all of Jesus’s signs and “I am” sayings, He is pointing back to Old Testament images and explaining spiritual truths that confirm He truly is who He says He is: the Son of God, Son of Man, and promised Messiah.

Chapter 11 begins the final week of Jesus’s life, beginning His triumphant march toward the cross to be the spotless Lamb, sacrificed outside the camp, fulfilling the Day of Atonement established in the old covenant (see Lev. 16 and 23). Hebrews 13:11-15 makes this connection and calls us to also meet Christ “outside the camp” where He endured suffering for us, leaving the city of today so that we might look forward to the city that is to come. This beautiful imagery is the purpose of John’s writing: that we might know the One crucified and risen, who has fulfilled the old way of being made right with God once and for all on our behalf, bringing light and life to us for all eternity. There is no lack of Old Testament connections through these chapters as John reminds the reader that Jesus is the fulfillment of every promise, the completion of every requirement. This is the good news of the gospel and the point of the book of John.

AS YOU READ

As you read this week, underline, highlight, or note the many descriptions or names ascribed to Jesus throughout the passages, just as you did last week. Also note any sign or “I am” statement.

John 11

John 12–13

John 14–15

John 16–17

John 18
