

## Introduction

The Bible isn't just a book to set on our shelves and pull out every now and then. We shouldn't open the scriptures just when we are facing trials and hardships. The Bible is not just a book of stories for our entertainment. The Bible also isn't meant to be read through once a year or only opened at church during the holidays. The Bible is meant for learning, for encouragement and so much more. We can learn of an awesome God who took the time to make such a beautiful world, who loves us so much to create us, send His Son to die for us, and to promise a home in Heaven with Him.

So why do we take time studying the Bible, doing devotions? The answer is simple, taking time for devotions with Jesus daily helps our relationship grow in trust and faith and promises a long life, "Always remember what is written in the Book of the Teachings. Study it day and night to be sure to obey everything that is written there. If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything." -Joshua 1:8 We can learn so much about what God is teaching through the Bible.

So, the question is asked, where do we begin with studying the Bible? What does it mean to really study the Bible over just reading it? Over the next 30 days we will look at some new ways we can dig deeper into our Bible studies with some new ideas and hopefully by the end you will have picked up some new ways to study the Bible and your relationship with God will be stronger and closer than before.

When answering questions please take a few minutes to really think about your answers and not just jot down a few words or the obvious answers just to get through the day. This is a study to dig deeper into the Bible and to really get to know Jesus and yourself and how He is working or not working in your life.

The Bible tells us that Jesus got up early in the mornings to commune with His Father before He started His day. He knew He needed the time with God before facing the day. We too need that time and it can easily be made when we tell ourselves that we do have the time. We just need to make the time; it could be even less than 10 minutes a day if you'd like. You just need to fit the time into your routine and stick to it. You could even ask the Lord to help you use your time wisely and He will help.

## Day 2

### Personalizing

Taking a verse and directing it to you. You can replace us, we, them, with your name. This is a good way to connect with the Bible and see how God is speaking directly to you. Once you read the verse answer the questions and how they can apply to your life. (page 80 has an example)

### Open with prayer

Isaiah 64:8: Have I accepted who I am and how God made me? Name some good qualities about yourself and some things you don't like about yourself.

Isaiah 6:8: Am I willing to go serve the Lord no matter what He asks. Where would I like to go if I was called to missions?

## Day 3

### R. E. A. P.

Read.... Examine.... Apply.... Pray.... 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

### Open with prayer

Read: Read and reread the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you. As you read ask:

-What do you see about God? What is God doing in this passage? What do you see about man?

Examine: Spend some time reflecting. Ask yourself these questions and write down your thoughts.

-Who is writing and who is he writing to?

-Does the author write anything that might indicate his purpose or intent?

-How do you think the author wants his audience to respond?

-Also add one thought from each verse

Apply: Meditate on what God is saying to you and how it affects your life. Ask yourself these questions.

-Is there truth to believe? Sin to repent of? A promise to claim? A command to follow?

-What things need to change in light of this text?

-How can I live differently and be different because of what I just read?

Pray: Pray through the passage and your application, asking God to change your heart and to change your life based on the time you've spend in God's Word.

Day 6

The 5 P's

Choosing a verse that has a life principal, a rule that governs a person's behavior. Read the verses and then answer the 5 p's that follow. For an example you can look at the back of the book page 80 and see what I am referring to.

Open with prayer

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Principle: Write down your chosen principal.

Paraphrase: Restate the verse in your own words and explain it.

Personal Struggle: Write down areas where this has been a challenge to you lately.

Profit/Loss: List all the blessings you'd experience by following the principal. List all the possible consequences if you don't.

Plan of Action: Decide how you are going to carry out this principal. Don't be afraid to add a deadline.

Day 8

6 Searches

Read the Bible verses today and then answer the following questions. When we ask questions, it helps us stop and think about what we read, and we can learn some new things God is teaching us.

Open with prayer

Read: 1 Timothy 4:6-16

What I liked about these verses....

What I didn't understand....

What did I learn about myself....

What did I learn about God....

New thoughts on these verse....

What should I do....

Day 30

Digging Deeper

There are so many ways to study the Bible and hopefully you have gained a few new ways and maybe some new study habits. For this last day we are going to try one more new way and I hope as you read the Bible you can find more ways to see how the Bible all works together from Genesis to Revelation.

Today let's look at several verses and see how they all connect, when I did this I couldn't help but find more and more verses that connect to this one verse and know I can be reading a verse and suddenly remember another verse that makes a connection. Let's give it a try. Write how they can connect to each other after each verse.

Read John 1:1-5

Focus John 1:5 "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overpowered it."

Connections:

Genesis 1:3-4:

Psalm 18:28:

Psalm 119:105

Isaiah 9:2

Matthew 4:16:

Day 30 extra room for answers.... Close with prayer using the extra space for requests and answers

Matthew 5:14, 16:

John 3:19-21

John 8:12:

John 12:35-36; 44-46:

2 Corinthians 4

1 John 1:5-7

Revelation 21:23