

ROOTWORKS
DISCIPLESHIP TOOLS



BIBLE STUDY JOURNAL

GROW DEEPER IN THE WORD

ROUGH DRAFT!!

THANKS FOR TESTING OUT THE BETA VERSION!

If you have any feedback, you can lemme know at
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the BIBLE STUDY JOURNAL. Let's get started with a few questions.

Why does everyone need truth?

Everything we think, say, and do is based on what we believe is true, good, right, and wise. If a person believes happiness is found in the consumption of media (social or otherwise), then he will spend his time staring at a screen. The direction of our life is determined by what we think.

Why is the Bible the best source of truth?

From a purely human point of view, it's a great work of literature. More importantly, God gave us the Bible so that we might know him and live a good life.

Why don't Christians make the Bible a priority?

Many believers don't spend time in God's Word because it's difficult to understand. I get it! I created this simple tool to help you better understand what you are reading.

Praying for you,

Matt

P.S. I'm praying that your love for God's Word grows! Imagine what your life would look like if the truth was sweeter than honey and your heart's delight!

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
(Psalm 119:103)

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight.
(Jeremiah 15:16)

HOW TO USE THE BIBLE STUDY JOURNAL

This 21-day journal will help you think about the Bible through a series of open-ended questions. Pick a consistent time and place where you won't be distracted—put your phone on airplane mode!

Begin with prayer. Read the passage two to three times. If possible, read it once out loud.

Work through the first five questions at your own pace. It's not a race! Once you move on to the next question, reread your passage and respond in the space provided.

Once you've finished the first five, congratulate yourself! You made it!

If you still have the time (and patience) to continue, finish the last four bonus questions.

If you miss a day, don't beat yourself up. The goal is spiritual GROWTH, not GUILT.

Let's look at the questions.

1. CONFUSION — What words, phrases, or verses raise questions for you?

We typically skip over the stuff we don't understand. Take a moment to identify things that don't make sense. It's good to admit it when you don't know something! Not only is this an expression of humility, but it also means you are ready to learn!

2. CELEBRATION — What words, phrases, or verses inspire or encourage you?

God wants to encourage us! When you read something that lifts your soul, note it!

3. CONVICTION — What words, phrases, or verses challenge you?

We aren't designed to live with guilt, and because nobody is perfect, we need a solution. God offers us a solution: to receive his forgiveness, we must admit (confess) our sins.

4. COMPREHENSION — What have you learned about God, yourself, and/or the World?

The truth transforms our thinking, constantly directing our words and actions. The Bible teaches (and reminds) us what we need to know.

5. CORRECTION — How is God calling you to change how you think, speak, or act?

Believing in Jesus means doing what he wants us to do. Based on everything you've thought about so far, how will you walk in obedience today or this week?

6. CONSOLIDATION — How would you summarize this passage in a single sentence?

When you take the time to really dig into a passage of Scripture, it can be easy to become hyper-focused on the details ... and walk away without having a sense of what we've read. Take some time to condense the meaning of your passage into a few words or a sentence.

7. COMMUNICATION — What could you share with others?

As followers of Jesus, we are his representatives on earth. Jesus said we are to be like a light on a hill! Take some time to consider what you have learned in this passage and think about the people in your life. Consider your family, friends, and even the strangers you see all the time but don't really know. If the right opportunity came your way, what might you say?

8. CONTRADICTION — How does our culture conflict with the teachings in this passage?

The Bible paints a clear picture: God's Way is radically different from the World's Way. Once we've heard from God, it's essential to consider how his message differs from what we hear in the World.

9. CONTEMPLATION — What phrase can you meditate upon today?

A great way to change your thinking is with repetition. We constantly repeat things in our head, especially when anxious or stressed out. If you know how to worry, you know how to worship!

AN EXAMPLE FROM PSALM 5

1. CONFUSION — What words, phrases, or verses raise questions for you?

- *What's the difference (if any) between walking, standing, and sitting?*
- *What does it mean to "delight" in the law of the Lord? Can a person change what they delight in?*
- *"Whatever they do prospers." Does this mean the "blessed one" will never have any problems?*
- *What is chaff?*
- *What does meditate mean? What does blessed mean?*

2. CELEBRATION — What words, phrases, or verses inspire or encourage you?

- *That person is like a tree planted by streams of water.*
- *The Lord watches over the way of the righteous.*

3. CONVICTION — What words, phrases, or verses challenge you?

- *"...meditates day and night..." While this can't possibly mean that a Christian ought to meditate ALL day and ALL night ... this probably means that we ought to think about God's word often. At least twice a day? Maybe that is too literal ... but I am challenged by this verse because I can go several days without thinking about God's word.*

4. COMPREHENSION — What have you learned about God, yourself, and/or the World?

- *The more I think about it, the more it seems like "walking, standing, and sitting" is a progression ... it represents a deeper or prolonged time with a wicked person. It is one thing to walk for a short time with a wicked person ... it is worse to stand with them and linger ... and even more damaging to sit with them for a long time.*
- *God gives us the choice to be happy or not ... to be righteous or to be a sinner.*

5. CORRECTION — How is God calling you to change how you think, speak, or act?

- *I probably need to spend less time (or maybe no time) with Bobby ... he's not a good influence in my life.*

6. CONSOLIDATION — How would you summarize this passage in a single sentence?

- *To be happy, a person needs to remove the bad influences from their life and spend time in God's Word.*

7. COMMUNICATION — What could you share with others?

- *If someone asks me about my faith, I can say, "God wants everyone to have a good life" (he doesn't want anyone to live a self-destructive lifestyle.*

- *Last week, Joey told me that he's been hanging around the wrong crowd, and I know he wants to do better. I'm going to ask him how I can help with that.*

8. CONTRADICTION — How does our culture conflict with the teachings in this passage?

- *I'm not sure how to answer this one! Maybe I need to think a little more about this!!*

9. CONTEMPLATION — What phrase can you meditate upon today?

- *"Delight in the law of the Lord"*

- *I'm going to pay more attention to the things I "delight" in, the things that I think will "fill me up" and feel good. I want to redirect my thoughts to be God's thoughts!*

SCRIPTURE READING LISTS

If you need a Bible reading plan, here are a few suggestions:

Life of Jesus

1. John 1:1-18
2. Luke 2:8-20
3. Matthew 3:13-4:11
4. Luke 4:16-31
5. John 1:35-51
6. Matthew 14:13-21
7. John 2:23-3:21
8. John 4:5-42
9. John 4:46-54
10. John 7:53-8:11
11. Luke 5:12-25
12. John 9:1-12
13. Mark 2:1-12
14. Luke 7:1-10
15. Luke 10:38-42
16. Luke 23:13-28
17. John 13:1-20
18. Matthew 23:25-28
19. Luke 23:32-49
20. Luke 24:13-27
21. Luke 24:13-32

Psalms Overview

1. Psalm 1
2. Psalm 5:1-7
3. Psalm 5:8-12
4. Psalm 8
5. Psalm 19:1-9
6. Psalm 19:10-14
7. Psalm 23
8. Psalm 32
9. Psalm 34:8-14
10. Psalm 37:1-9
11. Psalm 42
12. Psalm 51:1-9
13. Psalm 51:10-19
14. Psalm 66:1-12
15. Psalm 66:13-20
16. Psalm 95
17. Psalm 119:1-24
18. Psalm 121
19. Psalm 127
20. Psalm 139:1-12
21. Psalm 139:13-24

Teachings of Jesus

1. Matthew 5:3-12
2. Matthew 5:38-48
3. Matthew 6:5-15
4. Matthew 6:25-34
5. Matthew 7:1-6
6. Matthew 7:24-29
7. Matthew 20:1-16
8. Matthew 20:20-28
9. Matthew 22:34-40
10. Matthew 25:31-46
11. Matthew 28:16-20
12. Luke 8:4-15
13. Luke 10:25-37
14. Luke 14:25-35
15. Luke 15:11-32
16. Luke 17:7-10
17. John 6:35-40
18. John 10:1-21
19. John 15:1-17
20. Mark 4:1-21
21. Mark 8:34-9:1

Romans

1. Romans 1
2. Romans 2
3. Romans 3
4. Romans 4
5. Romans 5:1-11
6. Romans 5:12-20
7. Romans 6:1-14
8. Romans 6:15-23
9. Romans 7
10. Romans 8:1-17
11. Romans 8:18-30
12. Romans 8:31-39
13. Romans 9:1-29
14. Romans 9:30-10:21
15. Romans 11
16. Romans 12
17. Romans 13
18. Romans 14:1-11
19. Romans 14:12-23
20. Romans 15
21. Romans 16

