



LESSON 3

HOW TO READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE

Often when Christians learn that a person has recently become a Christian, they strongly encourage that person to “get in the Bible.” You may have heard this same advice, but you don’t know why and you aren’t sure how. Even in the first two lessons of this manual, you have already begun looking up Bible verses and learning from them. You have been told that Bible study is vital to your growth as a Christian, but you don’t know what to read or where to begin. Well, you aren’t alone. In this lesson we will tackle the basic questions of why, how, and what you should read in the Bible in an attempt to guide you as a disciple of Jesus Christ in this area. Jesus said in John 8:31, *“If you continue in My Word, you are truly disciples of mine.”*

Study Questions

1. Why should you read the Bible?

The obvious answer to this question is that you cannot possibly know what the Bible says unless you read it. However, instead of giving you “TEN REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD READ YOUR BIBLE,” let’s look in the Bible and see what it has to say.

Read Deuteronomy 8:1-3 and Matthew 4:4

- Who is it that tells us we should read the Bible? _____

- According to these verses, what is the purpose of reading the Bible? _____

- What type of life is kept alive by reading the Bible? Is it talking about physical or spiritual life? What do you think and why? _____

Read Psalm 119:9-16

- According to these verses, what are some reasons for reading the Bible? _____

- How can you use these verses in preparation to read the Bible? _____



Read Romans 10:17. What comes from hearing the Word of God? _____

Read Joshua 1:7-8. How often should the Bible be in your thoughts? _____

After reading these verses, you now see that the command to read the Bible doesn't just come from other Christians, but from God. He wants us to read His Word because it is the only way that we will be able to have a strong spiritual life. In addition to that, it will help us understand and know what God wants us to do in this life.

2. How should you study the Bible?

Studying the Bible is done in much the same way as other books, and yet it is different. We read to gain knowledge and we often bring our own biases to what we read. This may be fine for other books, but this is not how we should approach reading the Bible. Why? The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*

Who has inspired the writing of Scripture according to this passage? _____

What do these verses tell us of the purpose of Scripture? _____

If we know that God has directed the writing of **ALL** of the Bible, can we trust that it is true? Why do you think that? What are the consequences to believing that **ALL** the Bible is true? _____

Now that you know that you should read the Bible as being true, let's look at a formula that is helpful to use when you read the Bible:

- **Observation**—What does it say?
- **Interpretation**—What does it mean?
- **Application**—How does it apply to you?

Let's use this method in reading Isaiah 40:28-31. Write your answers on the lines provided.

Observations:



Interpretation:

Application:

There are many ways to read the Bible, but try this way for awhile and see what God opens up to your eyes as you read! Ask mature Christians how they read the Bible. Their years of experience will give you more insight.

3. What should you read? The answer to this question is that you should read the whole Bible, and in time hopefully you will. There are no right or wrong places to start reading in the Bible. However, there are some portions that may be more confusing to start with than others. To help you out with this we have provided you with a 40 day reading plan to help you get started along the way of developing a successful devotional life. This plan will help you get an overview of the Bible, but it is just the beginning of the wonders, wisdom, and insight that it contains. Before you read each day, take the time to find a quiet place and spend some time in prayer asking God to give you insight into what His Word says and how it applies to you.

Day 1	Genesis 1-2	The Creation Account
Day 2	Genesis 3	The Origin of Sin
Day 3	Genesis 15; 17-15	God's Covenant with Abraham
Day 4	Genesis 21:1-7; 22	God's Faithfulness and Abraham's Faith
Day 5	Exodus 3-4	God Calls Moses to Deliver His People
Day 6	Exodus 20	The Ten Commandments
Day 7	Joshua 1	Conquering the Promised Land
Day 8	1 Samuel 16-17	David and Goliath
Day 9	1 Kings 3; 8:1-9:9	King Solomon's Wisdom and the Temple
Day 10	1 Kings 18	The Prophet Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
Day 11	2 Kings 25	The Siege of Jerusalem and Exile of Judah
Day 12	Daniel 2-3	Daniel in Babylon and the Fiery Furnace
Day 13	Ezra 3	Rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem
Day 14	Isaiah 9, 53, 61	Isaiah's Prophecy of the Coming Messiah
Day 15	Luke 1-2	The Birth of Jesus



Day 16	John 1:1-18	Who Jesus is
Day 17	Matthew 4:14-44	Jesus Begins His Ministry
Day 18	Matthew 5-7	The Core of Jesus' Teachings
Day 19	John 3	God's Love for the World
Day 20	John 5	Jesus' Miracles and Authority
Day 21	John 11	Jesus' Power Over Death
Day 22	John 15	The Christian Life Defined
Day 23	John 17	Jesus' High Priestly Prayer
Day 24	Matthew 26-27	The Arrest and Crucifixion of Jesus
Day 25	John 20	The Resurrection of Jesus
Day 26	Luke 24	The Ascension of Jesus
Day 27	Acts 2	The Coming of the Holy Spirit
Day 28	Acts 9	The Conversion of Paul
Day 29	Acts 16	The Gospel Spreads to Europe
Day 30	Acts 26	Paul's Defense of the Christian Faith
Day 31	Romans 3	Justification by Faith Alone
Day 32	Romans 7-8	The Battle with Sin: Life in the Spirit
Day 33	1 Corinthians 13	The Way of Love
Day 34	1 Corinthians 15	The Power of the Resurrection
Day 35	Galatians 5	Freedom in Christ
Day 36	Ephesians 6	The Whole Armor of God
Day 37	Philippians 1:18-2:18	Christ's Example
Day 38	Colossians 3:1-17	Putting on the New Self
Day 39	James 1	Pure Religion
Day 40	Revelation 21-22	The New Heaven and Earth

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Here is another Bible Study to help you get acquainted with the person of Jesus and who He said that He is.

Day 1	John 1	Day 12	John 12
Day 2	John 2	Day 13	John 13
Day 3	John 3	Day 14	John 14
Day 4	John 4	Day 15	John 15
Day 5	John 5	Day 16	John 16
Day 6	John 6	Day 17	John 17
Day 7	John 7	Day 18	John 18
Day 8	John 8	Day 19	John 19
Day 9	John 9	Day 20	John 20
Day 10	John 10	Day 21	John 21
Day 11	John 11		

Assignments to help you prepare for Lesson #4

- 1) Start one of the reading plans listed in Lesson #3.
- 2) Complete Lesson 4, *How to Pray*, before the next appointment with your discipler.
- 3) Memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.
- 4) Think about the tremendous blessing it is to know the Creator of the universe as Lord and Friend.
- 5) Spend time each day thinking about the awesome privilege we have of talking directly to God through prayer.

NOTES: