

SIMPLE SCRIPTURE

A Guide to
Understanding How to
Read & Study Scripture

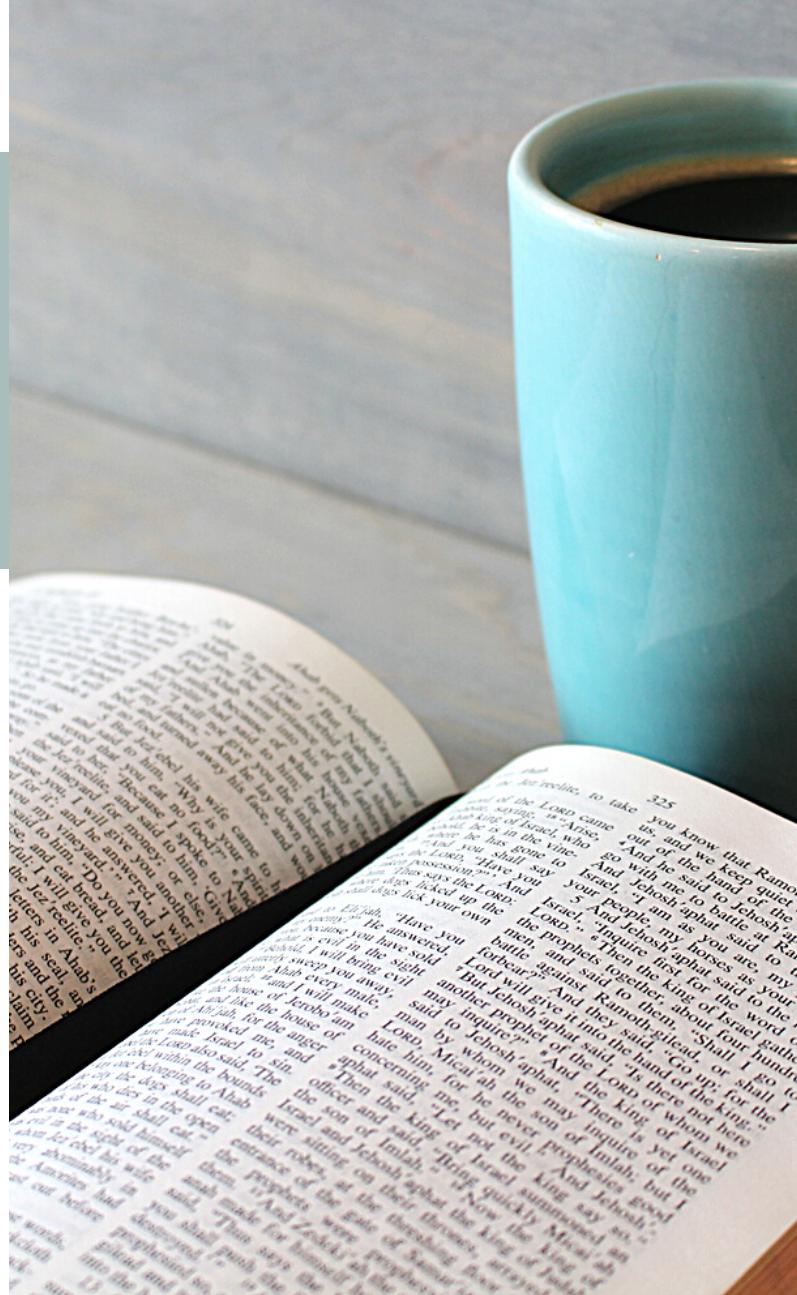


REAL GOAL OF BIBLE STUDY

God is waiting for you to show up so he can show off what he has in store for you.

Bible Study is created to spend time with God, to learn about Him, and discover who you are in the eyes of the One who created your innermost being. It is very personal, and each one of us experience God differently. The most important step is to simply show up, and God will be faithful to meet you there.

The Bible is the greatest love story ever told, and each book of the Bible reveals in different ways, how significant we are to God and the plan He revealed had from the very beginning that would enable us be in a restored relationship with Him.



"ALL SCRIPTURE IS GOD-BREATHED AND IS USEFUL FOR TEACHING, REBUKING, CORRECTING AND TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, SO THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK."

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

Have you ever been in a situation where your pastor or Bible study leader asks you to open your Bible to some unfamiliar book, like Obadiah? Quickly, you see people all around you flipping through the pages of their Bibles, appearing to know exactly where they are going. You try to act like you know what you're doing, but inside you're wondering why you even have a Bible at all.

It can be stressful when you don't know where to turn, and this guide will help prepare you for deeper and richer study of the Word as well as showing everyone that you know where Obadiah is.



"BUT FROM THERE YOU WILL SEEK THE LORD YOUR GOD AND YOU WILL FIND HIM, IF YOU SEARCH AFTER HIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL"

DEUTERONOMY 4:29

As you approach Scripture...

- Clear away any distractions: TV, kids, laundry basket, phones, Social Media, e-mails, texting, work tasks, and yes, even hunger.
- When you open your Bible, ask God and His Holy Spirit to be with you as you read.
- The Bible is our primary source, and the Holy Spirit is our primary teacher. John reminds us that the Spirit abides in us in order that we might be enabled to distinguish truth from error.
- John teaches that the Spirit of God, living in each believer, is our personal, private tutor. To be sure, God has given us human pastors and teachers for our edification (1 Corinthians 12:28), but remember that they are in addition to and not a substitute for the Holy Spirit. And so, the humblest believer in Christ may be taught of God through His Word, even when human teachers are not available.

"As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him." 1 John 2:27

What if you still don't get it...

Just because you pray for guidance and study hard doesn't mean you are going to understand everything in the Bible. Since the Bible is God's Word, and because there are things that He has kept a mystery, it is inevitable that we will not be able to fully understand every Scripture.

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law." Deuteronomy 29:29

- Rather than focusing on the things we don't know, we need to cherish and obey the things God has revealed to us. With God's Word as your map and His Spirit as your compass, you're sure to stay on course.
- Be patient. God may choose to reveal something you read in Scripture that morning or later that week. Your group discussions through Bible study will also give insight. Try to remember that God's view of time is different than our view of it.
- This is a process. God is most pleased by our obedience to read and grow in His Word. He promises to make Himself known through Scripture. Because the Bible is God's "living word," God will continue to teach you things over the years, even from passages you have studied before.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Still not convinced the Bible is worth all this effort and hassle? Here are some of the personal benefits promised to us through Scripture itself.

The Bible promises...

Comfort, strength, hope, wisdom, joy, purpose, power, and a transformed life!

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever! Amen."
2 Peter 3:18*

Knowing God's Word...

- **Helps us to know who God is.**

"And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which were able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ." 2 Timothy 3:15

- **Helps us resist temptation.**

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

- **Helps us experience His power to change.**

*"And do not be conformed to this world, be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."
Romans 12:2*

- **Helps us discover His direction for our lives.**

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105.

- **Helps us share our faith.**

*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."
1 Peter 3:15b*

- **Helps us recognize counterfeit religions.**

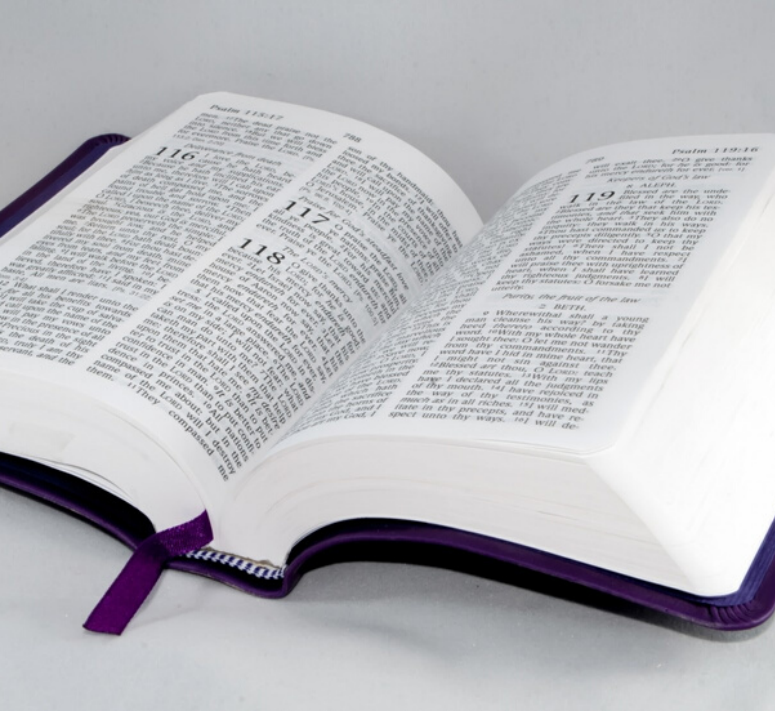
"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the Word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so." Acts 17:11

- **Helps us discern right from wrong.**

*"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."
2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Specific Benefits for Your Life

- God's Word brings true health, fruitfulness, prosperity and success in everything we do. (Psalm 1:3)
- The Word of God has healing power; it has the power to deliver us from oppression. (Psalm 107:20, Matthew 8:8, Matthew 8:16)
- God's Word is cleansing. If we act according to God's Word, our way will be cleansed. (Psalm 119:9, John 15:3, Ephesians 5:26)
- The Word of God, hidden in our hearts, keeps us from sin. (Psalm 119:11)
- God's Word is our counselor. As we delight in God's Word, it becomes a rich source of counsel and guidance for us. (Psalm 119:24)
- God's Word is a source of strength (Psalm 119:28), life (Psalm 119:93, Matthew 4:4), and light providing wisdom and guidance. (Psalm 119:105, Psalm 119:130)
- God's Word gives peace to those who love it; they are secure, standing in a safe place. (Psalm 119:165)
- When the Word of God is heard and understood, it bears fruit. (Matthew 13:23)
- God's Word has inherent power and authority against demonic powers. (Luke 4:36)
- Jesus Himself - His eternal person - is described as the Word. When we are into the Word of God, we are into Jesus. (John 1:1)
- Hearing God's Word is essential to eternal life; you cannot pass from death into life unless you have heard the Word of God and received it. (John 5:24, James 1:21, 1 Peter 1:23)
- Abiding or living in God's Word is evidence of true discipleship. (John 8:31)
- God's Word is the means to developing godly character. (John 17:17)
- God can do dramatic works through the Holy Spirit as His Word is being preached. (Acts 10:44)
- Hearing God's Word builds our faith. (Romans 10:17) Holding fast to the Word of God gives us assurance of our salvation. (1 Corinthians 15:2)
- The faithful handling of the Word of God gives the ministers of the Word a clear conscience for they know that they have done all they can before God. (2 Corinthians 4:2, Philippians 2:16)
- The Word of God is our sword of the Spirit, our equipment for spiritual battle, our offensive weapon. (Ephesians 6:17)
- The Word of God works effectively in those who believe. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)
- The Word of God is not dead; it is living and active and sharper than any two edged sword. The Word of God can probe us like a surgeon's expert scalpel, cutting away what needs to be cut out and keeping what needs to be kept. (Hebrews 4:12)
- The Word of God is our source of growth. (1 Peter 2:2, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5)



NEW TESTAMENT

THE GOSPELS

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

HISTORICAL

Acts

PAULINE LETTERS

Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon

GENERAL LETTERS

Hebrews, James, I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John, Jude

APOCALYPTIC

Revelation

OLD TESTAMENT

THE PENTATEUCH (LAW)

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

HISTORICAL

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

WISDOM & POETRY

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon

PROPHETIC

Major Prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor Prophets - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi



WAYS TO STUDY SCRIPTURE

When it comes to how to understand the depth of God's Word, there are a few different ways we can connect with Scripture.

TOOLS TO EQUIP YOURSELF WITH

- Bible Concordance
- Different translations
 - Bible Gateway
 - YouVersion App
 - Bible Hub
- Commentaries
 - Ray Stedman
 - Back to the Bible
 - Precept Austin
- Word Studies
 - Logos App (free)



FAITH STUDY FORMAT

F FOCUS ON THE PASSAGE

Read the passage once or twice to really focus on the words themselves - what is God saying through this passage? Ask yourself questions like what is going on, what themes are present, etc.

A ADMIT WHERE YOU ARE

The questions in each day will help you discover your current way of thinking, spiritual understanding, and life circumstances. Take time to connect your life with the spiritual truths.

I INTERPRET THE PASSAGE

Consider historical context and facts as you try to understand the Scripture. Look up the definitions for words, read some commentary and seek the original words from the original languages - Greek or Hebrew to get the fullest understanding.

T TAKE THE PASSAGE INTO YOUR LIFE

Allow Scripture to transform you from the inside out and in your daily life. What have you learned about God's character or your character? How can you take action on the truths you learned so your life reflects the Gospel?

H HEAR FROM GOD

We won't hear from Him if we don't take the time to listen to what He has to say. The "Hear from God" questions will give you an opportunity to hear and discern God's voice through Scripture. After all, this is about a true relationship with your Heavenly Father..





BETTER TOGETHER

As you begin to diver deeper into the Scriptures, one of the best ways to continue in your studies is to share what you're learning with others to see new perspectives and bring more truth to light.

QUESTIONS TO ASK AS YOU DISCUSS WITH FRIENDS

Start with specific Scripture -

What passage are you reading and focusing on?

- What was your first response to what the passage was saying about God and about people?
- Did you discover anything important by using other resources (i.e. different translations, word studies, commentary)?
- Did any verse strike you personally? How so?
- What questions are you still left with? What is hard for you to understand?
- How does this passage point you to the gospel and the love of Jesus?
- How can you apply the truths you just learned to your current everyday life?

JOIN A FAITH JOURNEY BIBLE STUDY GROUP!

1. The best way to join a group is to start one - in your home, at the park, in your local coffee shop, etc.

2. Check out our website for more info -

www.lisathompsononline.com

