

SIMPLE BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

1 | BEGIN WITH PRAYER

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you (John 14:26, NIV).

Before you begin reading, ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and mind to receive truth. Ask Him to prepare your soul to be transformed as you’re reading and thinking about what the Bible says.

2 | READ AND MAKE A LIST ABOUT GOD

The Bible is overwhelmingly an account about God, so let that be your focus. I have a notebook that I write in to list out the truths I discover about God. As I’m reading through my Bible reading plan, I just list them out: 1,2,3...

Here’s an example:

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Psalm 80

- 1) God is the Shepherd of Israel
- 2) God is enthroned between the cherubim (referring to ark?)

2 Peter 2

- 3) God didn’t spare sinful angels, the ancient world, or Sodom/Gomorrah.
- 4) God rescued Noah and Lot... therefore God knows how to rescue me and punish the wicked.

3 | 1 VERSE. 3 QUESTIONS.

As I’m reading, the Spirit will tend to highlight a verse or a couple of verses. Once I’m done reading through my plan for the day, I go back to the passage that grabbed my attention. I read through it a couple of times more slowly and with intention. Then, I ask three questions:

- 1) What does this show me about God/Jesus/Spirit?
- 2) What does this expose in me?
- 3) What is the Holy Spirit inviting me to do today?

Here’s another example:

2 Peter 2:9

- 1) In the past, God has punished the wicked while protecting the righteous. God still knows how to do that. God rescues the godly from trials and God holds the unrighteousness for punishment. Both of these are an act of grace—rescues those who put their faith in Jesus AND gives the unrighteous time to repent by “holding” them until the time of punishment. God’s truest rescue is through faith in Jesus’ Christ.
- 2) I tend to look for ways to rescue myself from trials. Sometimes, I even find ways to punish others for hurting me. That’s not at all what trusting God looks like.
- 3) The Spirit is inviting me to trust God to rescue me from trials instead of myself.

4 | TURN IT INTO A PRAYER

When we pray, we are putting ourselves in a position of humility and submissiveness before God—this is a great place to be! I will turn what I've discovered into a prayer.

Here's what I mean:

“God, you are a Rescuer and the Righteous Judge. All throughout the Bible, I see how you come through again and again, true to Your character and Your plan. Help me to trust You more. Sometimes, when my life gets difficult, I get scared or frustrated. Then I decide to handle things myself. That's stupid. I don't want to do that anymore. Holy Spirit, will you teach me how to trust You in tough times and grant me the courage to actually do it? Help me to see others the way you do and invite them to know You through Christ. I see now that this is an area I need to freshly hand over to You again. I trust You. Amen.”

5 | COMMIT TO ONE ACT OF OBEDIENCE

James 1:22 says, **“But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves (NLT).** The Bible is not only to be read, understood, and meditated upon. It's meant to be lived! This is what faith looks like in real life.

Turn what you've discovered into an act of obedience for the day.

This is what mine looked like:

Today, when I sense that I'm in a trial, I will turn to God, hand my worry to Him, ask Him to sustain me, and trust Him through it.

That day, I had multiple opportunities to trust God and invite the Spirit to shape me in and through those.

I hope you find this helpful!