

WE EXIST TO

AMPLIFY THE

HOPE + LIFE

OF JESUS TO

ALL PEOPLE

HOPE

+

LIFE

FOR NEW BELIEVERS

Water**SEDGE**
NETWORK

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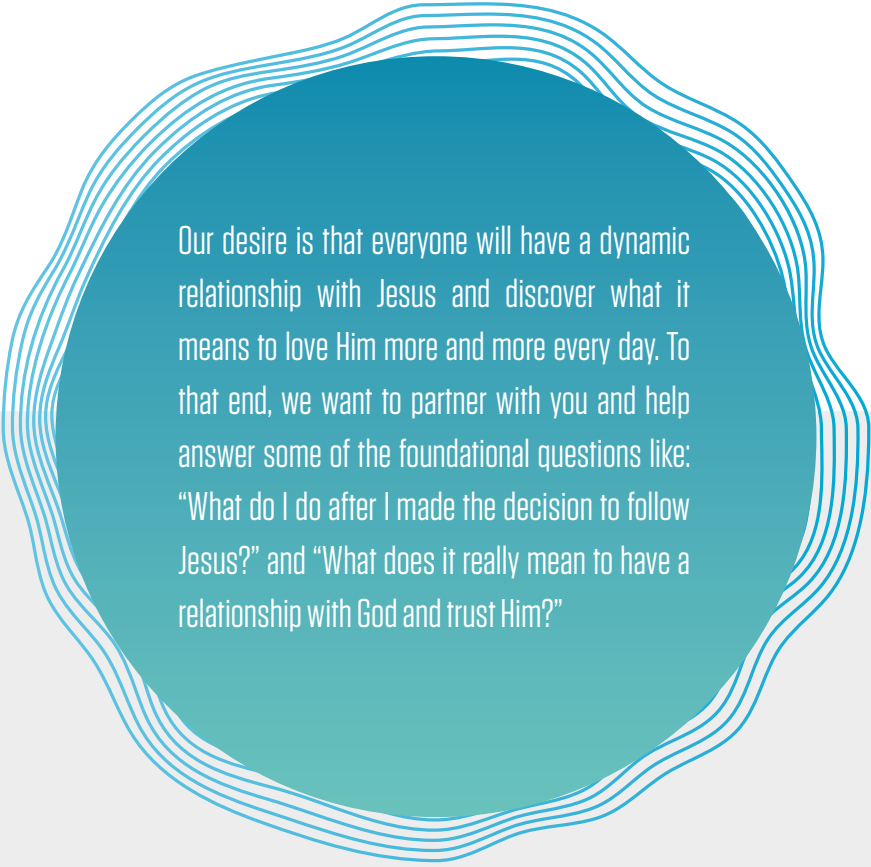
Welcome to the GREATEST adventure you will ever take—following Jesus Christ!

What you hold in your hands is a guide to help you get started on the right path. Of course, there is more to following Jesus than what is discussed in this guide. Think of this as a foundation for a lifetime of learning and growth.

If you are a new Christian or trying to figure out what it means to trust God with your life you are reading the right thing!



At Central, we exist to Amplify the Hope and Life of Jesus to all people. This mission is driven through our belief in one God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and the Savior of all people who put their faith in Him alone for eternal life.



Our desire is that everyone will have a dynamic relationship with Jesus and discover what it means to love Him more and more every day. To that end, we want to partner with you and help answer some of the foundational questions like: “What do I do after I made the decision to follow Jesus?” and “What does it really mean to have a relationship with God and trust Him?”

The Bible is a gift from God. However, we recognize that it initially can be difficult to read, study and apply it to our lives – so we will give you some tools to not only study the Bible but also help you see that the Bible is trustworthy.

So, let's start by unpacking the most foundational Question: What is Salvation?

“For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only
Son, that whoever believes
in him shall not perish but have
eternal life.”

John 3:16 (NIV)



WHAT IS SALVATION?

The idea that we can have a personal relationship with a God who loves us certainly takes some getting used to! We've no doubt that you have many questions you'd love to ask and things you'd like to know. Don't panic - these are two of the reasons we've put this course together. While we can't guarantee to answer all your questions during this course, you will be in a better position to grow in your relationship with God as a result of it.

We believe that God created the world and everything in it, including you, and He wants to begin a personal, one-on-one relationship with you today.

IT STARTS WITH JESUS.

Everyone has an opinion about Jesus. Maybe you think He's a great teacher or a prophet. Maybe you think He is the Savior. Whatever you believe, we can probably agree that Jesus changed things. We believe He wants to change you, too.

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well.

JOHN 14:6

Jesus claimed He knew God. No big deal, right? Plenty of people make the same claim. But Jesus also said He was God. And this upset the religious leaders of His day so much that they killed Him. But that was 2,000 years ago. Why does it matter to you now? How does who Jesus is and what He's done affect your life now?



the Creator of the universe, has a purpose for you and your life. He loves you and wants to help you because He is a good God. And because of that, His plans are better than your plans. You don't have to measure up to some impossible religious standard to know Him. You just have to take a few simple steps.



For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

ROMANS 10:9

You don't have to be perfect. Through Jesus' death on the cross and rising from the dead, Jesus took all of your wrong and gave you all of His right. If you believe that and commit to following Him, your life will never be the same. It's as simple as **repenting** of your sin, **declaring** you want to follow Jesus, and **believing** He is who He says He is.

**Believing in Jesus is the first step on the greatest journey of your life.
You haven't finished the race—you've just gotten started.**

WHAT'S NEXT?



After someone has made the decision to follow Jesus it's important to identify with the global church through baptism and learn what it truly means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.



WHAT IS BAPTISM?



Most people who are married wear a wedding ring on their finger. It symbolizes publically that they are in love, taken, and belong to one another. In a comparable way, public Baptism is the symbol of a Christian's love for God.

Baptism is going public about your faith in Jesus and communicating to the world your heart-felt, covenant commitment to following Him. It is the next step after salvation.



Baptism by immersion symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and is your public declaration that you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

NOTE: Baptism does not save you, but it shows the world that you have already been saved. And while baptism is not required for salvation, it is a biblical command and demonstrates your love and obedience to Christ.

- Colossians 2:12; Acts 2:41; Ephesians 2: 8-9; Matthew 28:19-20

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

It has been reported for over 50 years that the Bible has been the largest seller of all books published in the history of mankind



This alone should encourage both the Christian and the non-Christian to pick up a copy and read it to experience all it has to offer.

Generally, when you hold a book in your hands, you assume it is one book, composed by one author, with one thought or story in mind. In reality, the Bible is not just one book, it's a collection of 66 books.

The 66 books in the Bible were written by 40 different authors, over a period of some 1,500 years, in three languages, and on three continents. Each author was supernaturally inspired by God to write his book. Obviously these 40 authors didn't sit down and collaborate on a 'god' they were going to invent.

They simply recorded the facts of what they observed. When you consider that each of these unrelated authors all said the same things about God over such a long period of time, it is a miraculous proof of His existence!

The Bible is the authority on life. Someone once suggested that the BIBLE stands for “Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.” This is of course not literally true, but practically speaking, it is the true purpose of the Bible. Some view studying the Bible as little more than preparation for some sort of Biblical trivia contest. down and collaborate on a ‘god’ they were going to invent.

But the primary purpose of Bible study is not information, it's transformation.

As we learn and apply the teachings of the Bible, we begin to experience a change in our attitudes, thoughts, and lifestyle. In the Old Testament, King David put it this way, “Your Word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path,” (Psalm 119:105).

If we want to know God, how to please Him, and how to have a successful journey, then we need to learn what the Bible teaches and live our lives according to its guiding principles.

Every question we have about conduct, morality, and daily living must be answered through the teachings found in the Bible. It is our roadmap for following and becoming like Jesus. While the Bible contains instructions for the living, it is not just an organized, boring list of dos and don'ts.

The Bible is basically a story. It is the story of real people, living in real places, dealing with real life issues, and interacting with the real, living God. The same God who interacted with people like Noah, David, Jonah, Peter, and Paul is interacting with each of us.

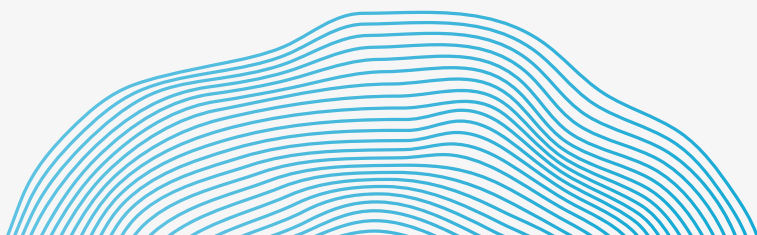
As we see how He interacted with people in the past, we learn more about how He interacts with us today.

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:16 that “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”

If the Bible truly is God's word and can help us on our life's journey . . . it is so very important to read it and let its words sink into our hearts.

Make a commitment to read a little bit of the Bible every day. Begin in one of the first 4 books in the New Testament, or read the Book of James which teaches on faith and read one chapter a day. Or turn to Proverbs and read with the calendar. From that one chapter in the Old or New Testament, underline a verse or two that really speaks to you and spend a couple of minutes thinking about the meaning. This habit will be very helpful to get you started on living a life of “hiding God's Word in your heart.”

After reading these few paragraphs you might have a few questions about the validity of the Bible. Check out the “Extras – Appendix” where some “FAQ” questions have been answered to help you process what you might be thinking.



HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE



Writing to his young disciple Timothy, Paul says, “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.” We are told that Timothy knew the Scriptures from his infancy. He grew up with a godly mother and grandmother (1:5) who fed him upon God’s word. Timothy was taught Scripture as a child. He was rooted in The Word.

Roots have a number of critical functions. They both absorb and store water and nutrients essential for growth. They also anchor the plant’s body to the ground for support. From this foundation shoots begin to grow up from within. While these first shoots appear to be weak, many can push through concrete! Imagine that this concrete represents the problems Timothy faced in his ministry. Being soundly rooted in The Word from his infancy sprang up to form the characteristics Paul wrote about in 2 Timothy 3:10.



WHAT’S IT TAKE TO DIG DEEP ROOTS AND STUDY THE BIBLE?



First, it takes time (Col. 2:6-7; Ex. 23:28-30; Acts from 7:23-34). We know that Moses needed 40 years of preparation before he encountered Pharaoh. Jesus was about 30 years old before his public ministry began. Paul took three years to prepare and stayed inconspicuous for another fourteen (Gal. 1:18; 2:1). Time is a factor that many people would like more of. Getting rooted in God’s Word takes time. It is something that can’t be rushed because getting rooted in God’s Word is synonymous with getting rooted in God. We can’t separate the two.

There are seasons in life and the challenge you face is not to stop the things around you and root yourself in God. No, the challenge is to deepen your roots in God and bring Him into your daily grind. By studying the Word in ways that encourage you, you are allowing God to become more involved in your life. The bottom line: **rooting yourself in God’s Word takes time.** So, don’t rush it!

Second, developing deep roots takes trials. The warning Paul is giving in 2 Timothy 3:12-13 is of the difficulties and persecution Christians will face. It takes incredible strength for a disciple to prove themselves faithful (see James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:5-7). When troubles come our true character is revealed. In times of trouble we either run to God or away from Him. The choice we make reveals how rooted we really are. Getting rooted in God's Word also involves trials.

Third, it takes desire. Paul said that he desired to know Christ and nothing else (see Phil. 3:13-15). To Timothy he calls this desire, single-minded dedication (2 Tim 2:4f.). If you want to be rooted in the Word, desire it. At Central we want to provide you with tools to help your roots grow deep and strong. These are, we're sure, the first of many tools. We trust they will be of help to you as you continue to root yourself in God's Word.

Each of the 66 books has plenty of wisdom for living as a follower of God, but some books are easier to understand than others. Some new Believers start reading in Genesis and want to read through to the Book of Revelation. Although admirable, let us share a few alternative suggestions. Begin reading your Bible by choosing one of the biographies of Jesus: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. These are known as the Gospels ('gospel' means 'good news') and are found at the beginning of the New Testament. Since following Jesus is at the heart of being a Christian, reading the first-hand accounts of what He did and said is a wonderful beginning to the process of learning to live like Him.

Start by reading one chapter a day. Read each one slowly, and try to picture the events described by the author. Perhaps read each chapter twice. Reflect on what following Jesus in your life would look like if you did what He did and obeyed what He taught. As you read, have a pencil or highlighter at your side. Highlight or underline verses that jump out at you. Keep a notebook handy to write down any questions or thoughts you have as you read. Take your time



The goal is not to get through the text, but to get the text through to you.

As you get more familiar with the Bible, begin reading other books. Many people find the New Testament books of James and Philippians great next steps in studying the Bible. You may read a passage you have heard or read dozens of times before, but notice something different and fresh the next time. Best of all, over time you will notice the Bible's power to transform your mind and heart.



The ultimate purpose of Bible study is to know, follow, and obey the God who speaks to us and reveals Himself through His Word. Are you ready to dig into God's Word?



Remember that only two things here on earth are eternal – the Word of God and the souls of man.

If you want a clear plan on how to study the Bible on a daily basis see the “Extras – Appendix” section of this book.

WHAT IS PRAYER?



We believe prayer is foundational to spiritual growth and effectiveness and is intended to permeate every aspect of our individual and corporate lives. Prayer is an essential component of growing deeper With God, In Community, and On Mission. Prayer realigns our will to the Father's and is the pathway to experiencing God's empowering presence as we Amplify the Hope and Life of Jesus to All.

Understanding the importance of prayer is not enough. Prayer needs to become part of our life and something we love doing. Is it possible that a lot of people don't love praying because they have never been taught how to pray?

When you discover the joy of having daily conversations with God, you'll experience His presence, and we believe those encounters will change your life

Once you learn how to pray, prayer can become your lifestyle.

We believe we can pray to God in every and all situations:

Before your day starts—Before you go to bed—Before you go to work or school— Before you send a text or an email— Before you eat, drive or travel— When the bad things happen— When the good things happen—In every situation— we have the ability to PRAY FIRST!

Throughout scripture people show us how they pray to God and we read about how God listens to their prayers. There is not some 1 + 1 formula for prayer but we believe we have constant and direct access to God . . . and He is listening.

As you begin praying, it may be helpful to have a framework around building your prayers. There are many excellent outlines to choose from (check out the Lord's Prayer in your Bible- Matthew 6:9-13). Here is one common outline many people have found helpful. It's known as the 'A.C.T.S.' outline for prayer.

A**doration.** Start your prayer with worship, adoring God for who He is and what He has done for you. Recognize the greatness, majesty, or power of God. If you are looking at reading the Bible when you begin to pray, the book of Psalms in the Old Testament is a great place to start. The Psalms were the worship songs of the Jewish people and they contain many beautiful and poetic expressions of God's wonderful qualities.

When we recognize God's greatness in our lives it reminds us that He is worthy of our worship and able to handle whatever needs we may have.

C**onfession.** Spend some time reviewing your day or your week, acknowledging and confessing your sins. Confession means that you are identifying and admitting you have done something that is sinful. The good news is that God is not surprised by these confessions. He knows what you've done. Confessing your sins is your way of agreeing with God that you have fallen short of what He wants you to do.

Confess those failures to God, get them out in the open, and spend some time asking for God's help to resist those temptations in the future.

This is a great way to clear the air between you and God, and get your heart right with Him.

Thanksgiving. Let God know how grateful you are for the blessings He has given you. Look through your prayer list, and thank Him for the prayers He's answered in your life. Thank Him for the simple things you might take for granted, like your home, family, health, work, community, etc.

This kind of grateful soul reminds us that God is our provider. He is involved in all of our lives, and He does answer prayer.

Supplication. Supplication is simply bringing your requests to God. They may be personal requests, or the needs of someone you know. God invites us to bring all of these requests to Him. Often, our prayers are predominantly these kinds of prayers.

Prayer is bringing your requests to God for His help and inviting Him to be involved in your life.

This A.C.T.S. model is not a magic formula for prayer -- no such thing exists. But it is a great starting point and helps you to pray in balance as you learn to communicate with God through prayer.



After we learn what it means to have a relationship with Jesus, how to trust and study the Bible and connect with God through prayer, is it not important to ask this question:



WHATS NEXT??

One of the most foundational verses in scripture is Matthew 6:33.

This verse says:

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

This scripture tells us that if we put God and the Kingdom first that the things we need in life will be provided to us.

In Romans 8:28 the Bible mentions that, “all things work together for good to them that love God.” The idea of everything working together for good compliments Matthew 6:33. This is a helpful verse to answer the questions for the next right steps for your spiritual journey. This verse could become the anthem of your heart.



The big ideas with this verse is this: Put Jesus over everything in your life.

Let's break this verse out into 3 steps.



Step 1 – Give God the first part of every day.

When we start the day praising Jesus, it will trend more towards a Spiritually healthy and pleasing day – rather than focusing on yourself.

Step 2 – Give God the first dime of every dollar.

The two things people stress out the most about is their future and their finances. Giving God a tenth of all you make from your job is a way of thanking Him for His faithfulness in your life and for blessing you with everything you have. It helps us to keep our priorities straight. It is not only helpful but a command from God to those who call themselves followers of Jesus. (A few great verses on this are: 1 Corinthians 16:2, Corinthians 9:6-7)

Step 3 – Give God the first thought in every big decision.

It is easy to be the master of our lives and to make decisions on our own. It is easy to not count God into the daily rhythms of our lives. However, while it is easy does not mean it is good. God wants to help us, guide us, and support us. He wants us to count Him in on the daily decisions of our lives. This helps to keep us rooted in Him. Check out Colossians 2:6-15 and Psalm 1.

Let Jesus Christ be at the forefront of your thoughts and the guide of your heart. He'll put everything else into place. He promises.

Let's make today count. Let's be disciplined people full of love, joy and grace and amplify the Hope and Life of Jesus in our personal and public lives.

As you finish this guide we hope it has helped you get a healthy start to your walk with God and that you will take your next step in finding healthy community. Life is not meant to be done alone and it is through healthy relationships we can thrive in this world. Maybe you want to get connected in a Bible Study, or Become a Community Member - we sincerely encourage you to join us at Central Connect!

EXTRAS (Appendix)

Validity of the Bible

Hasn't the Bible been rewritten so many times that we can't trust it anymore?

The fact is that the Bible has not been rewritten. Take the New Testament, for example. The disciples of Jesus wrote the New Testament in Greek and though we do not have the original documents, we do have around 6,000 copies of the Greek manuscripts that were made very close to the time of the originals. These various manuscripts, or copies, agree with each other to almost 100 percent accuracy. Statistically, the New Testament is 99.5% textually pure. That means that there is only 1/2 of 1% of all the copies that do not agree with each other perfectly. But, if you take that 1/2 of 1% and examine it, you find that the majority of the "problems" are nothing more than spelling errors and very minor word alterations.

Yes, the Bible is reliable. The original writings of the Bible have been lost. But before they were lost, they were copied. These copies were incredibly accurate, very meticulous, and very precise. The people who copied them were extremely dedicated to God and their copying tasks. They took great care when copying the original manuscripts. This copying method is so exact, and so precise, that the New Testament alone is considered to be 99.5% textually pure. This means that of the 6000 Greek copies (the New Testament was written in Greek), and the additional 21,000 copies in other languages, there is only one half of 1% variation. Of this very slight number, the great majority of the variants are easily corrected by comparing them to other copies that don't have the "typos" or by simply reading the context. You should know that copying mistakes occur in such ways as word repetition, spelling, or a single word omission due to the copyist missing something when moving his eyes from one line to another.

The Bible is Historically accurate.



It could be said that the Bible is a book of history -- and it is. The Bible describes places, people, and events in various degrees of detail. It is essentially an historical account of the people of God throughout thousands of years. If you open to almost any page in the Bible you will find a name of a place and/or a person. Much of this can be verified from archaeology. Though archaeology cannot prove that the Bible is the inspired word of God, it has the ability to prove whether or not some events and locations described therein are true or false. So far, however, there isn't a single archaeological discovery that disproves the Bible in any way.

Scientific Accuracies of the Bible



Many people doubt the Bible for various reasons. One of them is that the Bible is not accurate scientifically, but this just isn't so. The Bible is not a book about science, but when it does speak scientifically, it is accurate. In fact, it was far ahead of any other writing of its time. Please consider the following:

1. The Shape of the Earth

A. "He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in," (Isaiah 40:22, NIV).

i. This may or may not be construed to support the spherical shape of the earth. The horizon is a circle and a circle is flat.

2. The Earth is suspended in nothing

A. "He spreads out the northern [skies] over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing," (Job. 26:7, NIV).

i. This is particularly interesting, considering that the cosmology of other cultures at that time did not have the earth suspended in nothing, but rather upon pillars, or people, or animals.

3. The Stars are Innumerable

A. "He took him outside and said, 'Look up at the heavens and count the stars -- if indeed you can count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be,'" (Gen. 15:5, NIV).

4. The Existence of Valleys in the Seas

A. "The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundations of the earth laid bare at the rebuke of the LORD, at the blast of breath from his nostrils," (2 Sam. 22:16, NIV).

5. The Existence of Springs and Fountains in the Seas

A. "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month -- on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened," (Genesis 7:11, NIV). See also Gen. 8:2; Prov. 8:28.

6. The Existence of Water Paths (Ocean Currents) in the Seas

A. "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! ... When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ... You made him [man] ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet ... the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas," (Psalm 8:1,3,6,8, NIV).

7. The Hydrologic Cycle

A. "He wraps up the waters in his clouds, yet the clouds do not burst under their weight," (Job. 26:8, NIV).

B. "He draws up the drops of water, which distill as rain to the streams; the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind," (Job 36:27-28, NIV)

C. "The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again" (Ecclesiastes 1:6-7, NIV).

8.

The Concept of Entropy

A. "In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded," (Psalm 102:25-26, NIV).

9.

The Nature of Health, Sanitation, and Sickness

A. The listing for this section is too large for this page, but the scriptural references are Leviticus 12-14.



Copied and Edited from Christian Apologetics and Research Ministries.

Read more here: <https://carm.org/scientific-accuracies-in-the-bible>

BIBLE STUDY TOOL 1: WHAT WHY AND HOW?



When reading the Bible take out a piece of paper and write down 3 words to help you stay on track but also get the most out of your time in God's Word.

What: what is this passage talking about and saying?

Why: why is this passage important and helpful?

How: how do you apply it to your life today?

When we answer these 3 questions we will be able to not only read the Bible with a bigger lens but also read it for direction on our life's journey.

BIBLE STUDY TOOL 2: EASY AS ABC



To begin an ABC study, select the passage of Scripture you will study. It should not be more than one chapter—preferably it should be a section of a chapter. Read the passage a minimum of three times. Next, read the passage again and jot down your thoughts in a rough draft. Then organize under the following five sections, each identified by a letter of the alphabet.



A. A TITLE



You may want to write your title after you have finished the rest of your study. In choosing a title, jot down two or three titles that come to mind as you study; then either select the best one from this list or form a new one from a combination of your suggestions. The title should fit the chapter or passage and be as complete as possible. The title should clearly identify the passage's content. Don't be concerned about being clever or catchy. The title can be as short as two words or as long as ten.



B. BEST VERSE OR BASIC PASSAGE



Decide whether you are choosing a best verse or a basic passage. Write the reference of the verse or verses under the section heading. The best verse is a single reference that seems most outstanding to you as you read the passage or chapter—it does not have to include the central theme. The basic passage is a group of verses (no more than three) that includes the central message or is the key to the contents of the passage. You may want to write out the entire verse to help you memorize it.



C. CHALLENGE



As you work through the passage or chapter, **ask God to challenge you in a personal way from some portion of what you are studying. Your purpose now is to accept this challenge and apply its truth in a definite way to your life.** It may be something that God wants you to do or stop doing, or an attitude to develop or get rid of. A habit may need to be formed or broken. You may need to incorporate some truth into your thinking.

Under the heading CHALLENGE, begin with the number of the verse or verses from which you are taking your challenge. First state in your own words the truth of the verse. Then tell how the challenge applies to you—what needs it reveals in your life, what shortcomings, transgressions, or neglects it indicates, or what new appreciation or understanding it opens up to you. Since the challenge is personal, use the pronouns “I,” “me,” “my,” and “mine” in your writing.

Next, state clearly what you plan to do about it. Tell what specific action you will take to correct the weakness, to build the needed quality into your life, or to increase your understanding of this truth. **Choose something practical you can do during the following week, instead of something long-term. Remember to depend on the Holy Spirit, who ultimately enables us to grow in Christ.**



D. DIFFICULTIES



Consider each verse in your study passage. Does it speak of anything you could not explain to another person? If so, under the heading DIFFICULTIES write down the number of the verse and the question or problem it raises in your mind. State the specific difficulty it presents to you. If a difficulty can be answered by a little research (such as looking up a word in a dictionary), do the research and record the answer.



E. ESSENCE



In the last section of your study, you may choose to summarize or outline the passage under the heading ESSENCE. In either case, you should record only what the passage says, not what it means. **Rather than interpreting it, simply put in your own words what the scripture actually says.** Highlight this sentence. The summary is a brief condensation of the passage. Summarize all parts of the passage equally, not giving too much space to one part and slighting another.



PRAYER STARTING POINT

There are many different types of prayers. All are necessary to have good, honest, and well- balanced communication with God. The following list describes the different kinds of prayer:

- **Adoration:** Telling God how wonderful and powerful He is.
- **Confession:** Admitting your sins and failures to God and asking for forgiveness.
- **Thanksgiving:** Thanking God for everything good and being in control of the not-so-good.
- **Supplication:** Asking God to help you and others.

Read the following verses and identify which type of prayer is being used.

Psalms 38:18

Hebrews 13:15

Luke 11:3

Ephesians 5:20

James 5:16

Try this out:

- Spend a minimum of 5 minutes each day talking to God.
- Try writing out your prayers using the A.C.T.S. format.
- Take a moment right now to pray for someone you know.

DAILY PRAYER FOCUS



1. Humbling ourselves. Asking forgiveness for our sins and the sins of our land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
2. Seeking God. Declaring our dependence on God in every area of our lives. (1 Chronicles 16:11)
3. His Kingdom Come. Praying for revival in our generation. (Matthew 6:10)
4. Hearing from Heaven. Invite the Presence of God into our church and our lives. Pray for souls to be saved, signs, wonders, miracles, and transformed lives. (Exodus 33:15, Isaiah 64:1, Acts 2:42-47)
5. Believing God. For answered prayer to our specific needs. (Philippians 4:6, Matthew 21:22)
6. Praying for people. To take next steps in their journey of faith to surrender to God, Find Freedom, and find their spiritual gift, (Ephesians 1:17-18)



I WANT TO LEARN MORE WHAT BOOKS DO YOU RECOMMEND?

NIV Study Bible (Life Application)

Mere Christianity- CS Lewis

Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God by Francis Chan

The Life You've Always Wanted- John Ortberg

The Cost of Discipleship- Bonhoeffer

The Normal Christian Life- Watchman Nee

The Purpose Driven Live - Rick Warren

The Case for Christ - Lee Strobel

Life's Healing Choices – John Baker

The Knowledge of the Holy - A. W. Tozer

Anxious for Nothing - Max Lucado

Are you so pumped to talk through technology in your family?! This can be hard to go after with Middle School students. We've crafted 8 questions around three core conversation cue of healthy web habits (what to view/not to view), the effects of the internet on your self image, and communication boundaries. We're going to create fortune tellers that include some key conversations starters to facilitate conversations within your family. Play together (we've attached some rules to turn it into a game)! Use these as guides for starting a conversation around the dinner table or on the way to practice.

- #1.** Tell us about a time something was posted online that made you feel valued?
- #2.** If you were to stumble upon a pornographic image online, how would you respond?
- #3.** What are healthy and safe profile settings online?
- #4.** Has there ever been a time where someone picked on or devalued you through a social media/online post?
- #5.** How can we use technology as a family to bond more together?
- #6.** What is an example of a safe way to communicate something personal online?
- #7.** How can we create healthy boundaries for our devices in our home?
- #8.** What is an example of something inappropriate to share online?