

SAMPLE

READ

Workbook



Women's Ministry Toolbox

...equipping and encouraging women's ministry leaders

Created by Cyndee Ownbey of Women's Ministry Toolbox for Personal Use or One-on-One Mentoring Only

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Welcome Letter

Sweet Sister in Christ,

I am so excited about the journey you are about to embark upon!

God's Word is so rich! There is much He wants for us to learn and discover.

If you are new to the READ method or inductive-type Bible study let me encourage you to stick with it! You may struggle a bit at first as you find your rhythm and get accustomed to the format. It will come with time. I promise!

I hope you'll find the format and guides that follow helpful as you unpack the book of the Bible that you'll be reading.

To complete this study you will need just 3 things:

1. **A Bible**—I suggest a word-for-word translation. A study Bible can be helpful, but it is not necessary. I'm currently using the [Holman Christian Standard Study Bible](#).
2. **Access to a commentary**—see the resource list for online commentaries. If you have a study Bible the notes at the bottom are a commentary. In addition to my study Bible, I am currently using the [Women's Evangelical Commentaries](#).
3. **Access to another translation of the Bible**—preferably a thought-for-thought translation. See the resource page for online options. I frequently use the [CEV Bible](#).

To take time to savor His Word, I strongly suggest reading one chapter each week. If the book you're reading through is long, you may wish to double-up and cover two chapters per week. You will be blessed as you slow down, dig deep, and really digest each chapter of scripture.

As with any Bible study, the more you put into your study time the more you'll get out of it! Check out the 6-day and 4-day reading plans for pacing suggestions.

It is my deepest and most heartfelt prayer that you will grow in your ability and confidence to study God's Word.

Praying God will open our eyes so that we may see wonderful things in His law (Psalm 119:18 NIV).

Humbly His,
Cyndee Ownbey
Women's Ministry Toolbox

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History

In the early spring of 2016 our morning Bible study group wrapped up our current session. Without the weekly meetings and accountability of my Bible study group my time in the Word stalled.

Within weeks God drew my attention to the sorry state of my “quiet” time—really the lack thereof.

I was floundering without my Bible study group and a guide to keep me on task. As I struggled against the promptings of the Holy Spirit I was forced to acknowledge that I spent more time reading my Bible study book than I did the actual Bible.

Maybe you offer God some of the same excuses I did:

- I’m not smart enough to study scripture on my own. I don’t have a seminary degree.
- I don’t know where or how to start. There are 66 books—should I read them in order?
- Just reading my Bible can be so dry and boring at times.
- I don’t have hours to spend each day studying the Bible.

My feelings did not line up with what I knew God was asking me to do—to put down the Bible study book and learn to study scripture on my own. Without a Bible study author or Pastor at my side.

God didn’t leave me stranded, but placed several resources in my path—[Women of the Word by Jen Wilkin](#), [Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples by Francis Chan](#), and [Sweeter than Honey by Melissa Deming](#) to name a few. As I read through each one a clear pattern of studying scripture emerged.

They all began by asking the basic “W” questions, encouraged outlining and identifying main themes, digging deeper using other translations and commentaries, reflecting on what the Word reveals about God, and applying scripture to my own life. Observation, interpretation, and application.

Over the summer I somewhat reluctantly worked my way through 4 different books of scripture. I hadn’t envisioned spending the summer digging into the Word, but rather lounging by the pool. I worked through several drafts, re-ordered the questions, and refined the process.

Desiring nothing more than to be obedient I dared to share the rough draft with our Bible Study Coordinator. But only God. He had planted the desire for a scripture based, inductive-type Bible study on the hearts of team members almost 2 years prior. I was completely humbled that He was using me to help bring that prayer to fruition.

In the fall of 2016 our small church had 40 women sign up to learn how to R.E.A.D 1st and 2nd Timothy. Over the weeks their confidence, knowledge, and skills grew. Like learning to ride a bike without the training wheels, they were studying God’s Word all by themselves!

R.E.A.D. is just one of many methods you can use to study scripture on your own. It’s not perfect, but I can tell you it does work. I’d be honored if you’d use it as a tool in your arsenal to study scripture.

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Why READ?

1. FAMILIARITY

Repetition breeds familiarity and begins the process of memorization. The more we know God's Word the more we know about God. See Psalm 119:10-11.

2. DIGESTION

Slowing down to spend dedicated time on one passage allows the Holy Spirit to speak and provides time to digest God's Word.

3. CONNECTIONS

Zooming in (how it connects with other passages) and zooming out (how it fits in the creation-fall-redemption-restoration) gives us a bigger picture of the connections God intended. Scripture supports scripture.

4. DIGGING DEEPLY

God doesn't specify how much time we should spend or how quickly we should read His Word. It's not a race. We learn more by digging deeply than by skimming the surface. Cultural and historical context provide insight that can change the way we view and understand scripture.

5. APPLICATION

It's not enough to study the Word we must act upon the Word. How we apply God's Word matters. See James 1:22-25.

6. GROWTH & UNDERSTANDING

Studying scripture gives us a greater understanding of who God is and what He has done for us. When we apply that knowledge to our lives we reflect His image. See Romans 12:2, Psalm 119:18, Proverbs 2:1-5, and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

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“D” Stands for Do

James 1:22 tells us we are to “be doers of the word and not hearers only”.

Let’s look at what God is asking you to do in light of the passage you’ve read.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, prayerfully seek God’s direction before you answer.

1. What does God want you to do today or this week to develop Godly characters and habits?
 - a. Is God asking you to pray specifically about something or someone?
 - b. Are you supposed to seek forgiveness?
 - c. Is there something you need to confess to God?
 - d. Is there someone God wants you to encourage?
 - e. Does God want you to reach out and connect with someone?
 - f. Is there someone God wants you to serve?

Sometimes it’s crystal clear after reading a passage what it is God wants you to do. Other times we may not be certain. Pray and ask God to show you what He wants you to do.

Try to answer as deeply and as honestly as you can.

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4 Day READING Plan

Day 1—RECORD

1. Pray and ask God to open your eyes as you read His Word.
2. Read the passage of scripture through twice.
3. Record the 6 W's—who, to whom, when, where, what style, and why this passage was written.
4. Take notes on the passage. Outline it if you'd like. Record key words, questions, and areas of confusion.
5. Define the main idea(s) for the passage.
6. Pray and thank God for any fresh insight you've gained from your time in the Word today.

Day 2—EXPLORE

1. Pray. See the Praying Scripture resource page for ideas.
2. Read the passage of scripture.
3. Select a different translation and read the passage of scripture again.
4. Take note of anything of significance that the Holy Spirit draws your attention to.
5. Pray.

Day 3—EXPLORE

1. Pray. See the Praying Scripture resource page for ideas.
2. Read the passage of scripture.
3. Select and read at least one commentary on this passage. Take note of any new insights gained.
4. Make note of other places in scripture that communicate a similar message. Follow cross references to discover other scriptures that communicate a similar message.
5. Pray.

Day 4—APPLY & DO

1. Pray. See the Praying Scripture resource page for ideas.
2. Read the passage of scripture.
3. Reflect on: What does this passage tell me about God? What does this passage say about you and me? What does God want me to do today/this week so that I develop Godly character and habits?
4. Pray

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Bible Study Plan

Book, chapter, or passage being studied _____ Date _____

RECORD

Record (first week) or recall (following weeks) who, to whom, when, where, what style, and why this passage was written.

Record what this passage is about. (These notes are just for you—to help you capture the content of this passage.)

Repeated and Key Words:

Areas of Confusion or Questions:

Main Idea (One Sentence or One Sentence per Section):