
READ

Bible Study Workbook

SAMPLE



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 take time to savor His Word, I strongly suggest reading one chapter each week. If the book you're reading 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 your eyes so that you 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 my morning Bible study group wrapped up and without the weekly meetings and accountability, 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.

Desiring nothing more than to be obedient, I dared to share the rough draft of the READ Worksheet with our Bible Study Coordinator. Little did I know that God had planted the desire for a scripture based, inductive-type Bible study on the hearts of the 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 READ 1st and 2nd Timothy. Over the weeks their confidence, knowledge, and skills grew and they were studying God’s Word on their own!

READ is just one of many methods you can use to study scripture on your own. I’d be honored if you would 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. DEPTH

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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“R” Stands for Record

Imagine you are standing on the sidewalk outside of a bakery. What facts could you tell me about the bakery—without going inside? You could describe the outside of the building. You’d know what it was named and the address. You might get a glimpse of what’s happening inside. You’d be able to record a lot of basic facts.

That’s what your first task is—to record the facts.

If you have a study Bible or other reference book, now the time to pull it out.

You can find the answers to the 6 W’s in the introduction section in your Bible (if you have one), your Study Bible notes, in a commentary, or online at biblestudytools.com or blueletterbible.org.

Pray and then record the 6 W’s:

1. Who wrote the passage?
2. To whom was the passage written?
3. When was the passage written?
4. Where was the passage written?
5. What style was the passage written in (letter, prophecy, law, etc.)?
6. Why was this passage written?

You'll only need to record the facts the first week. Take the time to recall and reflect on them each week thereafter.

Put any study materials away. You just need your Bible and the Holy Spirit for the next part!

As you read through the Bible passage record what the passage is about. You can opt to hit the highlights or outline the passage. Use whatever method works best for you.

Write down those things that God is drawing to your attention. What sticks out?

Work to come up with a main idea for the passage. You may wish to have one main idea for each section (usually titled in your Bible) with the passage.

As you work through the passage, take note of repeated and key words, areas of confusion, and write down any questions you have.

Great job recording the facts! Let’s move onto exploring the passage!

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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 on pages 18-19.
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 on pages 18-19.
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 on pages 18-19.
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?

READ—Bible Study Worksheet

Chapter 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 chapter is about. (These notes are just for you—to help you capture the content of this chapter.)

Repeated and Key Words:

Areas of Confusion or Questions:

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