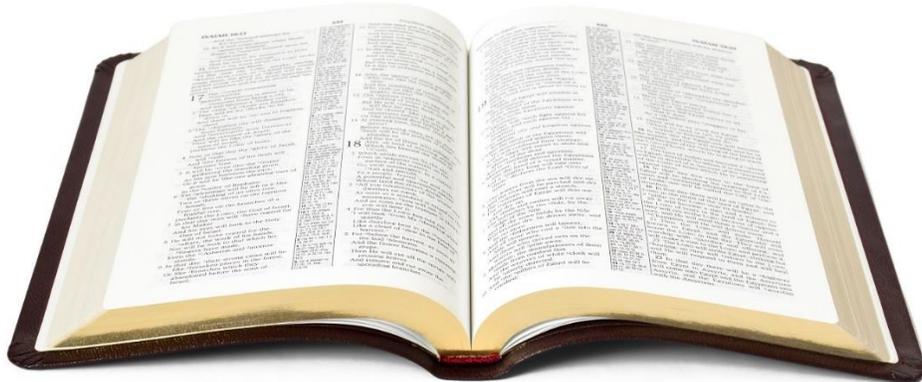


READ

Group Study – Sample Pages

CYNDEE OWNBEY



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READ

How to Host the READ Bible Study – Group Study

CYNDEE OWNBEY

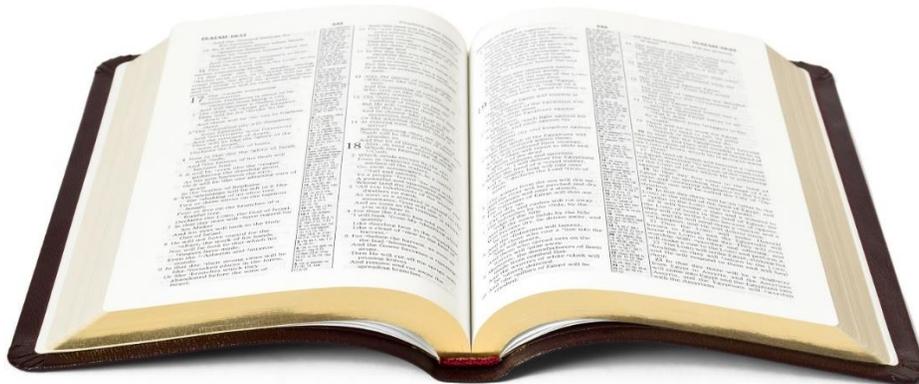


Table of Contents

PART 1 - AN INTRODUCTION TO READ	5
Before You Dive In	6
History of READ Bible Study	7
Why READ?	8
Group Guidelines	9
PART 2 - HOW TO READ	10
R stands for Record	11
E stands for Explore	16
A is for Apply	20
D stands for Do	21
Bible Study Lessons in Joshua	22
READ on Your Own	23
Suggested Bible READING Plans	24
PART 3 - ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	25
Praying Scripture	26
Evaluating Resources	28
Ideas for Going Deeper	30
Frequently Asked Questions	31
PART 4 - READ WEEKLY WORKSHEETS	
PART 5 - READ REFLECTION WORKSHEETS	

Before you dive in...

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

God's Word is so rich! There is much He wants 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 get accustomed to the format. But, in time, you will find your rhythm and discover the rewards of regularly engaging with God's Word.

TO COMPLETE THIS STUDY, YOU WILL NEED JUST 4 THINGS:

1. **A Bible**—I suggest a word-for-word translation (see the chart on page 16). A study Bible can be helpful, but it is not necessary.
2. **Access to a commentary**—If you have a study Bible, the notes at the bottom are a commentary. You can also find many free online commentaries at biblestudytools.com, biblegateway.com, blueletterbible.org, netbible.org, and studylight.org. Most of these commentary sites also offer a free app you can download onto your phone. You may decide to invest in a printed commentary. You can find a list of my favorite commentaries at womensministrytoolbox.com/read-resources.
3. **Access to another translation of the Bible**—I suggest using a thought-for-thought translation (see the chart on page 16). Selecting a translation from the opposite end of the chart on page 16 will add depth to your study time. Most of the websites mentioned above also offer a variety of translations online and in their apps.
4. **READ Weekly Worksheets**—In order to take time to savor and thoroughly unpack God's Word, I strongly recommend reading only one chapter each 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 reading plans for pacing suggestions on page 23 to pace yourself.

It is my deepest and most heartfelt prayer that you will grow in your ability and confidence to study God's Word. I am praying that God will open your eyes so you may see wonderful things in His law (Psalm 119:18 NIV).

Humbly His,

Cyndee Ownbey

Women's Ministry Toolbox

R stands for Record

On the following pages, you'll find excerpts from the READ Weekly Worksheets which will guide you through the record, explore, apply, and do exercises.

Together we'll look at Joshua 1:1-18. Though it's not an entire chapter, it is long enough for you to get a good feel for the READ Bible study method.

Before we begin, take a moment to pray. You may want to ask the Holy Spirit to renew and transform your mind as you study God's Word. (See John 14:26 and Romans 12:2.)

Your first task each week is to record the answers to the "w" questions below.

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 genre was the passage written in? See page 12.
6. Why was this passage written?

I like to record the "w" facts on my READ Weekly Worksheet the first week of Bible study. Then I recall and reflect on them each week after that. Doing so helps me to remember the context of the Scripture passages.

To find the answers to these questions, we need to pull out some Bible study materials.

Open a commentary or study Bible (physically or online) and search for the introduction to the book of Joshua.

Read through the introduction looking for the answers to the "w" questions and record your answers below.

Who?	To whom?
When?	Where?
What genre?	Why?

Were you able to find all of the answers? Sometimes historians aren't certain, don't know, or disagree. Don't worry about any blanks or uncertain answers.

In my research, I found Joshua may have written this book. It was written to the Israelites around 1200-1170 BC. The book of Joshua records Joshua's leadership and the fulfillment of the covenant between God and the Israelites. This book falls into the history genre. Scholars aren't sure where the book of Joshua was written. Your findings should be similar.

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How to Host the READ Bible Study

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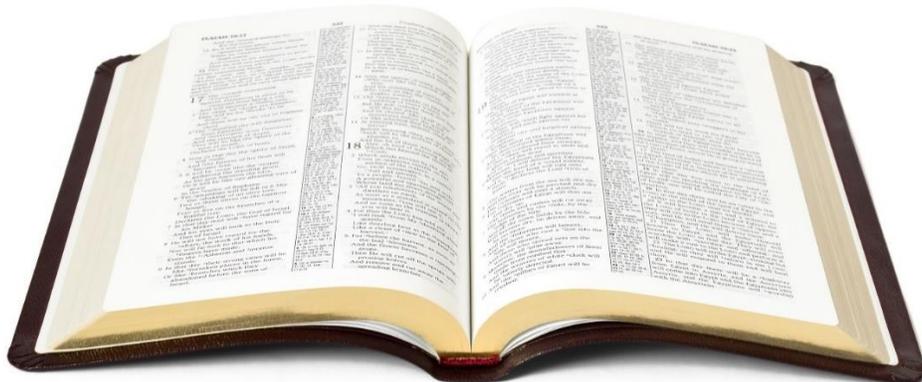


Table of Contents

Thank You	4
Before You Get Started	5
Sample Schedules	6
Selecting Book to Study	9
Discussion Groups	10
Recruiting Group Facilitators	11
Training Your Group Facilitators	13
Icebreakers	14
Name Tags	15
Preparing for the First Day	16
First Day Script	17
Prayer Guide	23
READ Practice Packet	24

Before You Get Started

What makes this Bible study different?

As you read through the following pages, you'll discover that the READ method may seem to be lacking a traditional piece of the Bible format, but it's not.

There is no formal teaching time.

No video. No lecture. No one standing before the group to teach on the Scripture that was studied.

This was completely intentional. God made it clear that *the purpose of READ is to teach women how to read the Bible, not teach the Bible to women.*

The Holy Spirit serves as the teacher for each woman as she works through her study during the week.

When women discuss the Scriptures during their group time with you, they'll also teach one another as they share what they learned during the week. You'll get to see Titus 2:4 in action as the older (spiritually) teach the younger!

This frees you up to love on and shepherd your women without having to be an expert on the content.

Please note: This packet is a supplement to the READ Workbook, which contains additional information that you will need to read before your first class.

Sample Schedules

Sample Schedule – 1 Hour

- 10:00 Pray out loud for the group—Ask God to bless your discussion
- 10:02 Read passage out loud—Ask each woman to read 1 or 2 verses. Go around the circle.
- 10:05 RECORD - Recall who, to whom, when, where, what genre, and why
- 10:08 RECORD - Repeated and Key Words
- 10:11 RECORD - Share Main Ideas
- 10:16 EXPLORE - Discuss insight from reading other translations
- 10:51 EXPLORE - Discuss the Scriptures that connect (cross-references) and how passage fits in the overall Gospel story
- 10:24 EXPLORE - Discuss insight from commentaries—draw out cultural and historical context
- 10:33 APPLY - What does this passage tell me about God? (His character, His promises)
- 10:38 APPLY - What does this chapter say about God's children? (Responsibilities, Sin)
- 10:42 DO - What does God want me to do today/this week?
- 10:45 DO - What do you want to remember?
- 10:50 Prayer Requests (if shared out loud)
- 10:59 Pray and Dismiss

First Day Script

Please Note: The answers to the activities you'll be doing on the READ Practice Pages can be found in the READ Workbook. If you don't mention it, they probably won't figure it out until afterward.

Feel free to read the notes or put them in your own words.

I am excited to introduce the READ Bible study method to you this morning. READ is a 4-part Bible study method that we will use to study one chapter of _____ (insert Bible study book you are reading) each week. Your homework each week will be to complete the READ weekly worksheet. READ stands for record, explore, apply, and do. Most women find they can complete each day's homework in 15-20 minutes or less.

However, we're going to speed that process up today so you can get a good feel for how it works. Really! That's it!

While you could complete the READ weekly worksheet in one day, I want to encourage you to choose either the 4, 5, or 6-day READING plan that you'll find in your READ Workbook. I think you'll quickly find that marinating in the Word almost every day increases your retention, your knowledge of God and the Scriptures, and accelerates your spiritual growth. You may just find yourself looking forward to Bible study!

To complete your homework each week, you'll need four things:

1. Bible
2. A Bible in a different translation
3. A commentary
4. READ weekly worksheet

We'll talk more about how you can access free translations and commentaries in a little bit.

Every day we want you to begin by offering up a short prayer and reading or re-reading the week's chapter.

Please bow your head with me, and let's pray. Lord, thank you for your Word. Open our eyes see and our ears to hear fresh insight from the scriptures we study today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Together we are going to READ Joshua 1:1-18. Due to the time we have, we won't read the entire first chapter, but it will be enough for you to understand the process.

Turn to page 29 in your READ Practice Packet, and let's read the Scripture together.

[Ask each person to read one verse, round-robin style.]

Please take out page 25 in your READ Practice Packet.

The first thing we need to do is to RECORD the answers to the "w" questions at the top of the page.

7. Who wrote the passage?
8. To whom was the passage written?
9. When was the passage written?

READ

Discussion Group Facilitator Guide

CYNDEE OWNBEY

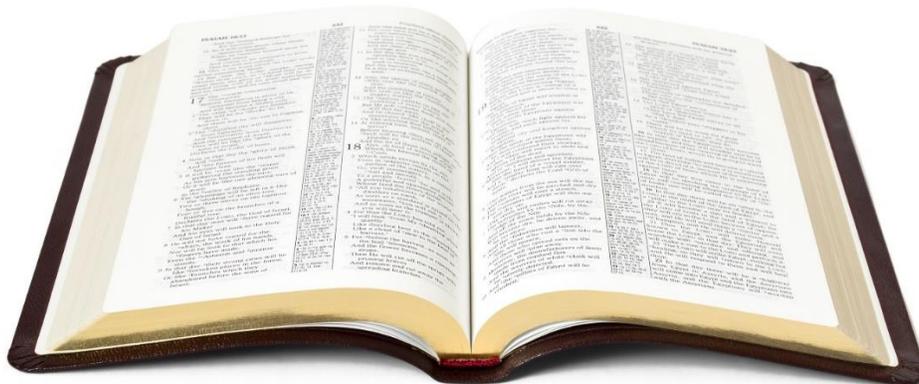


Table of Contents

Thank You	5
Before You Get Started	6
Sample Schedules	7-9
Expectations	10
Group Management Tips	11-12
Before Your First Meeting	13
First Day Tips	14
Praying for Your Group	15
Bible Study Facilitator Training	16

Expectations

- 1. You are expected to lead your group through the entire READ worksheet every week.** Assume God has something for someone to hear in each question and answer. The Holy Spirit may have spoken strongest to one (or more) of your group members in the "apply" or "do" questions—you don't want those members to miss the opportunity to share.
- 2. You are the facilitator.** Your job is to guide the women through the discussion each week. Please limit your personal sharing. Ask questions to draw out information they have not shared that you feel is pertinent. For example, "Did anyone come across any information about Lois and Eunice?"
- 3. Scripture is the authority for the group.** As is noted in the READ Workbook, the tools we are using in this study are the Bible and Bible commentaries. As tempting as it may be, please don't bring in any other materials. We want our women to focus on the Word.
- 4. Prayer Requests** - It is your responsibility to collect and communicate prayer requests for your group. Prayer requests shared should be personal—not general. For example, "Pray for me as I seek to minister to my sick neighbor."
- 5. Personal Contact with Group Members** - We *strongly* recommend you make personal contact with group members throughout the study. Use those opportunities to follow-up on questions they had, praise them for great sharing moments, encourage the quiet ones to speak up more, and pray with them. Send them a text. Drop them a notecard. Call them on the phone. Your efforts, even if not returned, will be appreciated and will in turn bolster your group's discussion and attendance.
- 6. Watch the Clock** - Assume your women have appointments immediately after—most do. Respect their schedule and always do your best to finish on time.

Before Your First Group Meeting

1. **Contact all of your group members**, preferably by phone.

Let them know:

- Your name
 - What room you'll meet in
 - Childcare information, if appropriate
 - How to contact you
 - Ask if they have any questions and answer those you can—follow up if needed
 - What they need to bring on the first day (their Bible and a pencil or pen)
2. **Build yourself an email list/group.** Input everyone's email addresses so you'll be ready to go. You may wish to send them a short note the day before the study starts letting them know you can't wait to see them in the AM. Reiterate the time and location.
 3. **Mark out the timing for the lesson.** It will help you to know when you need to speed up or slow down. You may want to use a highlighter to help the questions stand out, or different colors of ink for info you want to make sure is mentioned.
 4. **Pray for each group member by name.** See the prayer guide on page 15 for specific prayer prompts.
 5. **Review the Discussion Group Tips** in the READ Workbook so you can step in with gentle reminders if needed. You may even want to read through them together as a group at your first meeting.
 6. **Plan to arrive early** to set up your room before everyone arrives each week.

READ

Digging Deeper Lessons,
Activities, and Resources

CYNDEE OWNBEY

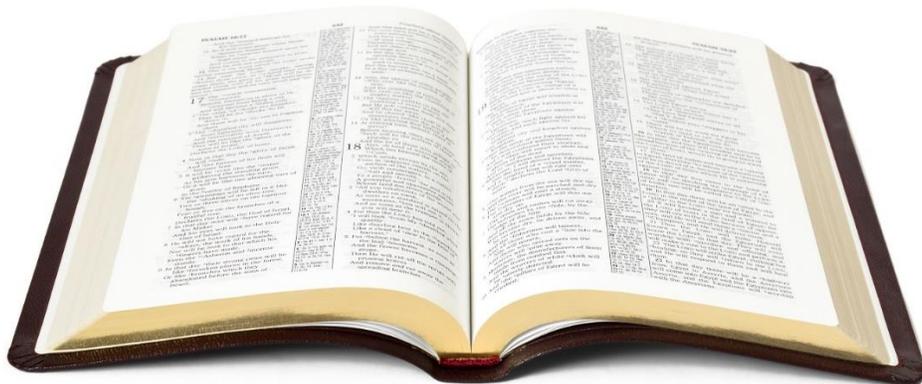


Table of Contents

How to Use	4
Sample Schedules	5
Recording Observations	7
Moving From Recording to Exploring	8
What's your attitude toward God's Word?	9
12 Reasons We Need to Study the Bible	11
Study Habits Gone Wrong	13
12 Biblical Approaches to Bible Study	16
Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration	18
Which translation is it?	19
Sharpening Our Discernment Skills	21
Paul or Princess	22
Worksheet Answer Keys	24
How to Use the Printable Resources	25
Bible Study Information Card	26
My Bible Study Habits	27
READing Check-up	28
Psalm 19 Poster	29
Psalm 19:10 Candy Cards	30

How to Use

Digging Deeper Lessons and Activities were created to strengthen your women's Bible study skills and provide biblical support for regularly studying God's Word. As your women learn a new way to study the Bible, they'll need some coaching and encouragement along the way.

Digging Deeper Lessons work best for Bible studies that are scheduled for 1 ½ - 2 hours.

Each lesson is designed to take approximately 15-20 minutes. Though if time permits, you could certainly stretch them to last a bit longer.

You know your women best—ask God to show you what they are struggling with and tailor your lessons around those challenges. Your Discussion Group Facilitators can give you great insight into areas in which your women could use some training.

If you plan to present all ten lessons and activities, I suggest you use the order in which you'll find them in this booklet.

These lessons are most effective when presented back-to-back:

1. Recording Observations & Moving from Recording to Exploring
2. What's your attitude towards God's Word? & 12 Reasons Why We Need to Read the Bible
3. How We Approach God's Word & What the Bible Says About Approaching God's Word

Please pick and choose those activities, lessons, and resources that best suit the needs of your group. You might just use one, or you might use them all.

Sharpening Our Discernment Skills

Purpose: To share steps your women can take to discern if a resource is reliable.

Supplies: Roll of Painters tape—for marking a line in the room

1. Today you're going to test your group's ability to discern real headlines from those which are fake. Ask your women to stand up. After you read the news headline to the group, they'll need to stand on the one side (show them which) if they believe the headline is true. If they believe the headline is fake, they'll need to stand on the other side of the tape.
2. After everyone has made their choice reveal whether the headline was real or fake.
 - Puppy Thrown at German Biker Gang (Real)
 - Dolphins Not So Intelligent on Land (Real)
 - Noah's Ark Theme Park Destroyed in a Flood (Fake)
 - Oyster Vending Machines Installed at French Seaside Resort (Real)
 - London's iconic Big Ben clock to go digital (Fake)
 - County to Pay \$250,000 to Advertise Lack of Funds (Real)
 - Target To Discontinue Sales Of Holy Bible (Fake)
 - Amazon Files Patent for Pay by Selfie (Real)
 - Company asks every employee to pay \$1,600 to bail company chairman out of jail (Real)
 - Professor teaches wrong course for entire semester (Real)
3. Ask the group—Was it always easy to tell which was fake and which was real?
4. Share: To identify real money from counterfeit bills, counterfeit experts study real money, not the fakes. The same works for us—when we study the Bible and focus on what is true and real, we can more easily discern that which is not.
5. Ask your group to turn to pages 28-29 READ Workbook and then read through the seven checks we can use to help discern if a source is reliable or not.
6. Close with a prayer asking for discernment and attentiveness to the Holy Spirit as we study God's Word.

READIng Check-up

1. Rate the change in your confidence in studying God's Word on your own.



Still pretty shaky Improved Much More Confident

2. Are you reading your Bible more often?

Not really A little more A lot more

3. What's your attitude *now* toward reading/studying your Bible on your own?

Check all that apply.

I find it interesting It's still a struggle
 I want to read my Bible I want to enjoy it, but I don't yet
 I'm too busy Other _____

SAMM