

***A Practical Guide for  
Everyday Believers***

*A Simple Way To*

**Study Your  
Bible**

**Teddy Levron**





[ChristianEssentialsPodcast.com](http://ChristianEssentialsPodcast.com)  
[questions@christianessentialspodcast.com](mailto:questions@christianessentialspodcast.com)

# A Simple Way To Study Your Bible

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Written by **Teddy Levron**

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Scripture quotations are taken from the KJV or NKJV Holy Bible unless otherwise noted.

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## A Simple Way to Study Your Bible

*A Practical Guide for Everyday Believers*

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### **Introduction:**

**Many people believe it is too hard to understand the Bible.**

In some ways, there are parts of the Bible that are difficult to understand...at first. But it doesn't have to stay that way.

**With a little effort, everyone can understand what God is saying.**

It's amazing to me that so many people declare it too hard to understand the Bible but never take the time to really STUDY God's Word.

When we are in school or at work, dealing with difficult topics, most of us will take time to research, ask questions, and find resources to help us understand what we need to know.

Yet, when considering what the Bible has to say, many people just throw up their hands and say it's too hard, too confusing.

I'm glad you're not one of them.

### **YOU CAN UNDERSTAND**

Let's be honest, studying the Bible can feel intimidating.

You might think:

- *"I don't know where to start."*
- *"I'm not trained like a pastor."*
- *"What if I misunderstand something?"*



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Here's the good news: **the Bible was written for regular people**, not just scholars. You don't need a seminary degree. You don't need fancy tools. You just need a **simple, repeatable approach**.

That's what this guide is about.

We'll break it down into a few simple principles to help you study the Bible with confidence, clarity, and consistency.

Ready? Let's get started.

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## Section One: Start with Prayer

First things first! Before you begin reading the Bible, talk to the Author.

Prayer isn't a ritual, it's a conversation. When you pray before studying Scripture, you're inviting God to help you understand what you're reading and how to apply it to your life.

### Why Prayer Matters

Before we open the Bible, prayer helps us get our hearts and minds in the right place. Prayer is not a ritual we rush through or a religious "warm-up." It is how we intentionally connect with God and invite Him into our study time. When we pray, we remind ourselves that Scripture is not just information to understand but God's truth to be applied to our everyday lives.

Prayer matters because it does important things.

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#### It Sets Your Focus

Life is noisy. Our minds are often full of distractions - work, family, stress, and unfinished to-do lists. When we open the Bible without praying, we can easily skim the words without really listening.

Prayer helps us slow down and refocus.

When you pray before studying Scripture, you are telling God, *"This moment matters. I want to be present. I want to understand what You have to say."* Prayer shifts your attention away from everything else competing for your thoughts and brings your focus back to God and His Word.

Prayer also reminds us *why* we are reading the Bible. We are not just trying to check off a task or gain knowledge. We are seeking truth, wisdom, and direction for our lives.

#### Scripture Reminder:

"Be still, and know that I am God." — Psalm 46:10



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## **It Humbles Your Heart**

Prayer reminds us of our “position” before God. I’m not talking about whether you are kneeling, sitting, standing, or lying down.

When we pray, we admit that we do not have all the answers. We acknowledge that we need help, wisdom, and understanding. This humility is important because pride can quietly block spiritual growth.

If we approach the Bible thinking, *“I already know this,”* we may miss what God wants to teach us. Prayer softens our hearts and opens us up to correction, encouragement, and growth.

Praying before Bible study is a way of saying, *“God, teach me. Shape me. Show me what I need to see—even if it challenges me.”*

### **Scripture Reminder:**

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” — James 4:6

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## **It Invites Guidance from the Holy Spirit**

The Bible is not just an ordinary book. It is God’s Word, and it is meant to be understood with God’s help.

The Holy Spirit helps us understand Scripture, apply it correctly, and recognize what God is saying to us personally. Prayer invites the Holy Spirit to guide our reading and give us insight we might not see on our own.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit highlights a verse that speaks directly to your situation. Other times, He brings clarity or peace about a decision you are facing. Prayer opens the door for that guidance.

Without prayer, Bible study can become intellectual only. With prayer, it becomes real and relevant to our current situation.



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### Scripture Reminder:

“But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit... will teach you all things.” — John 14:26

**SPECIAL NOTE:** In my personal experience (and for many others I know), understanding the Bible became easier once I experienced the Infilling of the Holy Spirit.

At one point, I would read the Bible but not understand it. I asked God to fill me with His Spirit. He did, and the Bible began to make sense. Not because I had gotten smarter on my own, but because something had happened on a spiritual level.

Pray for God’s wisdom and understanding. If you are sincere and diligent in seeking Him, He will equip you to follow Him.

Being filled with the Spirit is a key to gaining a better understanding of God’s Word. For more information, read Acts Chapters 1 and 2. Also, check our website for more resources.

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**Keep prayers simple.** There is no need for perfect words. A short prayer like, “*God, help me understand Your Word and apply it to my life,*” is enough.

Prayer prepares the heart. It clears the noise, lowers our pride, and opens the door for God’s guidance. When prayer becomes a regular part of Bible study, Scripture moves from being something we read to something that truly shapes how we live.

### ✔ Prayer Checklist

- ◇ Find a quiet place
  - ◇ Ask God for understanding
  - ◇ Be open to conviction or encouragement
  - ◇ Thank Him when you’re done
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## Section Two: Choose a Translation You Understand

If you don't understand what you're reading, studying becomes frustrating fast.

Selecting the right translation is important. But - be careful.

It not only needs to be easy to understand. **It Must Also Be Accurate!**

There has often been confusion about Bible translations. Some people refer to them as "versions". This is not completely accurate.

There is only one Bible, God's inspired Word to mankind.

Some translations are based on a literal, word-for-word approach, while others are based on a thought-for-thought or paraphrase approach. Still others include interpretation mixed with one of the previously mentioned processes.

Studying several translations can be helpful in trying to understand the principles that are taught. Many people find benefit in the New International (NIV), New American Standard (NASB), and Revised Standard (RSV) translations.

Others have started their Bible study journey with the New Living Translation (NLT), paraphrased Bibles like the Message, and others.

Here is my suggestion:

In my personal study, I prefer using a combination of the King James (KJV) translation and the New King James (NKJV) translation. I find them accurate when compared to the original meanings of the words in the original manuscripts. If you currently have trouble understanding the KJV, I would recommend the NKJV.

I find these two accurate when referencing other Bible Study Resources, such as concordances and dictionaries. (More on these study helps later.)

Many people have trouble with the Old English wording of the KJV, but as I mentioned before, once I asked God to fill me with His Spirit, that issue changed.

Ask God to lead you to a right choice. Remember that Accuracy is the most important part of the decision.





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## Section Three: Pick a Reading Plan (And Keep It Simple)

Don't open the Bible randomly every day. Have a plan.

A simple plan keeps you consistent and focused.

### Easy Plan Ideas:

- Start with the first four books of the New Testament – The Gospels
  - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

This is a great place to start, or if you've been a Christian for a while, a great place to revisit!

These four books of the Bible share the Good News about Jesus. They include many of the things Jesus taught while here on earth.

Starting here gives you everything you need to know to build a solid foundation of Biblical understanding.

From here, you can launch out into digging deeper into other parts of the Bible. Many of the things Jesus taught are references to things in the Old Testament.

Another helpful tip: To understand some of the things Jesus taught, you need to understand the culture of that time period. I'll list some helpful resources later in this guide.

- Next, study the first-century church in the Book of Acts.

Here you'll find what the first-century church believed and taught. Many of them gave their lives for what they believed.

The doctrines they taught are foundational for the church today. It's worth our time to make sure that our lives are being built on the same foundation and principles taught by these early followers of Jesus Christ.

Again, gaining an understanding of some of the cultural aspects of that time will help in understanding what they taught.



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- As you read through the Gospels and the Book of Acts, you'll find specific topics that you may want to explore. Write them down. Once you learn to use other Bible study resources, you'll be able to find topical studies to help you learn.

### **Lay a Good Foundation and Start Small**

Lay the proper foundation in the Gospels. Build your understanding of one concept at a time.

Get a good understanding of the things Jesus taught.

I know a man who was new to Christianity. He was invited to a men's Bible study at a local church. They were studying the book of Isaiah. Dissecting prophecy.

He is an intelligent man but was having trouble understanding what they were talking about, since he had no real background in studying the Bible. He brought his concern to the group's leader and told him that if they were going to be studying Isaiah for a while, he would no longer be attending.

The group leader told him to just "hang in there." They were almost done with Isaiah.

"We'll be starting to study the book of Revelation in a couple of weeks", he said.

Starting in the Book of Revelation is not a good idea!

In my experience, when I first got saved, there was no organized, foundational Bible study I could attend. Everything was random. I learned Biblical principles haphazardly for quite some time, until God led me to a systematic way to study His Word.

### **Be Consistent**

Make Bible study an everyday habit.

Even if you don't have long periods of time available every day, break your study into smaller pieces – One chapter, one passage, sometimes even one verse.

Do something every day to increase your understanding of what God has to say.

Learn the foundations of what Jesus taught, then build your understanding on top of that foundation.





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## Section Four: Read for Understanding, Not Speed

This is not a race.

Slow down. Read carefully. If needed, read the passage more than once.

Ask basic questions:

- Who is speaking?
- Who is this written to?
- What's happening?
- Why does this matter?

Also, ask yourself,

“What am I learning from this passage of scripture?”

“How can I apply this to my own life or situation?”

### **Tips:**

Reading slowly helps you notice details you'd otherwise miss.

This is also where other Bible study resources will come in handy to help your understanding. But ask God for understanding first.

The Holy Spirit will guide you to understanding and applying what you learn.

But remember that Bible study is not done “in a vacuum”. You're not alone. Your Pastor, anointed teachers at your church, and other more mature Christians are also good resources to help you.

Once you think you have a good understanding of the topic, reach out to others who can help reassure you or correct any misunderstandings you may have.

One step at a time, you'll become more confident in your ability to learn and hear from God.





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## Section Five: Understand the Context

### Context matters — a lot.

Never build a belief on a single verse alone.

Verses don't exist by themselves. They belong to:

- A chapter
- A book
- A historical setting

Ask:

- What comes before this passage?
- What comes after?
- What was happening at the time?

### The Bible **DOES NOT** contradict itself

Contrary to what some people believe, God's Word does not contradict itself.

Many who believe it does contradict itself have not taken the time to read and understand the book as a whole. Sometimes you need to understand historical events or cultural practices to understand what is being taught.

When scriptures are taken out of context, or people try to develop a doctrine from a single passage, confusion sets in.

It is important to take time to **study** the Bible rather than just **read** it. There is a difference.

For example, John 3:16 is quoted often. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever **believes** in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."



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Without context or further study, it would seem that the only thing you need to do to become saved and on your way to heaven is to believe in your head that Jesus was a real person.

In reality, the word “believes” in that verse translates from the word “trust”. “Whosoever TRUSTS in Him” is a lot different than just agreeing that He existed.

**Tip:** Again, Bible study resources will help you with this process. A good Bible dictionary or concordance will help you learn the original meanings of the words.

Example – When Jesus tells the parable about the Wise and Foolish Virgins, you need a basic understanding of the Jewish traditions of that time to fully understand why the events unfold the way they do.

Slow down – Understand the context – Take time to research what you don’t understand

**Context Checklist**

- ◇ Read surrounding verses
- ◇ Know the audience
- ◇ Understand the situation

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## Notes and Ideas:

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## Section Six: Interpret Carefully and Honestly

This idea builds on what we discussed before.

Some people try to interpret scripture to satisfy their own existing beliefs. Don't fall into that trap.

If you come across passages that challenge your current beliefs, don't immediately discard those ideas. Dig deeper. Ask God to show you the truth.

If you find your current belief does not align with God's Word, you must adjust and submit to God's will and way of doing things.

Some people are currently living lifestyles that do not match God's instructions. They pick and choose scriptures to make them appear right or to minimize their guilt, but they ignore scriptures that clearly condemn their lifestyle or actions.

### Again, Don't Fall Into That Trap!

Also, some of the concepts in the Bible were only meant for the Jewish people for a certain period of time. Trying to fit those concepts into our current culture may not be accurate.

Many people continue to try to live according to the law of the Old Testament instead of living according to the freedom offered to us by the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

Twisting scripture is not OK. It is a tool of Satan to keep us confused.

Ask God for Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding. The Holy Spirit will guide you to all truth.

Interpretation answers the question:

**“What did this mean to the original audience?” and “How does this apply to us today?”**

This keeps us from twisting Scripture to fit our opinions.



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Good interpretation:

- ◇ Matches the rest of the Bible
- ◇ Fits the context
- ◇ Makes sense logically – We’ve gotten some pretty wacky and weird doctrines over the years from people who are trying to promote themselves or satisfy their own guilty conscience.

**Warning:**

If your interpretation contradicts clear Scripture elsewhere, rethink it.

**Interpretation Checklist**

- ◇ Aligns with the whole Bible
- ◇ Fits historical and cultural context
- ◇ Avoids doctrinal error

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**Notes and Ideas:**

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## Section Seven: Apply It to Your Life

### **The Bible isn't just information—it's transformation.**

It's important to understand that as you read and study the Bible, it will transform your life.

God's Word will show you areas in your life that need to change, ideas that need to come into alignment with His way of thinking, etc.

In my own experience, as I began reading the Bible, I realized that my perspectives on life, and even my opinions and perceptions of God, had been shaped by the culture I lived in.

Many of the ideas I had related to God's character or the events of the Bible had been shaped by movies and television programs.

When I encountered what God really had to say and who He was, I had to rethink my previous ideas. I had to change!

As you read and study, some things will be obvious. But sometimes, you'll read a passage and wonder, "What does that have to do with me?" STOP, ASK, LISTEN!

Ask:

- What is God teaching me?
- Is there something to change?
- Is there something to obey?
- Is there something to trust?

#### **Application Is Personal**

The same passage may challenge different people in different ways.

Over time, you will also discover that God will show you different things each time you read through the same passages. Your current circumstances will help you see a different way to apply the same verses to different aspects of your life.



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Here's an example. Many years ago, I was asked to speak to a Men's group at a local church. At the time, I was in my twenties. Most of the men in the meeting were older than me.

I taught and preached on John Chapter 4. In this passage, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well. In their conversation, she comes to understand who He is and goes to tell the rest of the town about Him. (That's a very abbreviated version of what happened. Read it for yourself.)

In the end, I shared some insights God had given me about the story.

After the meeting ended, an older gentleman in his seventies approached me and said, "Young man, I want to tell you something."

I braced myself, figuring he was about to criticize or tell me I had completely missed the meaning of the passage or something along that line. I was wrong.

Instead, he told me he had been studying the Bible most of his life and had been a Sunday School teacher for many years. Then he said something that changed my life and thinking.

"I've taught through that same passage many times over the years, but tonight I learned something new."

WOW! If this guy learned something new from the simple lesson I had taught, I realized I had a long way to go in understanding the scriptures.

He was right. I am now in my sixties and still experiencing that same thing. Studying God's Word is a lifelong endeavor. He will continue to show you new things if you continue to sincerely seek Him.

If it seems there is too much to learn or too many things you need to change,

**Don't give up!**

**You won't be done until you meet Him face to face in heaven.**





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## Section Eight: Write It Down

**Writing helps you remember and process what you learn.**

You don't need fancy notes. Simple works.

Try:

- A notebook
- A journal
- Notes on your phone or other devices

**Write Down:**

- Key verses
- Questions
- Insights
- Applications

Taking notes or keeping track of personal insights God has given me on certain topics over the years has been a great benefit to me.

Going back to those notes over time has helped me stay on track, build a better understanding of God's Word, and be reminded of God's faithfulness.

Those notes have also helped me help others in understanding God's Word and how to apply it to their lives.

I've taken a lot of notes over the years. I like writing in notebooks. It slows me down and helps me process the information.

I also transfer the notes to digital formats so I can access them when needed from any device or location.

Do what works best for you. Who knows. Maybe God will lead you to use your notes to create Bible study resources that can bless others as well!





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## Section Nine: Be Consistent, Not Perfect

### You will miss days. That's okay.

Don't quit because you're not perfect. Consistency builds over time.

We all live in a busy world. There are many things pulling us in various directions. Distractions are at every turn.

It's easy to get discouraged when we seem to fail at staying focused. That's exactly what Satan wants. He hopes we'll just give up and quit trying to draw closer to God and learn God's Word.

If you miss your Bible study time for a day or two, just pick yourself up and get back to it.

It's also helpful to realize God can speak to you throughout the day. Think about the last thing you studied. Ask God for more wisdom and insight. Make your relationship with the Lord consistent, and soon your desire and focus on study will change.

### Reorganizing or reprioritizing your life may be necessary.

"I don't have time for \_\_\_\_\_."

That statement can usually be translated as:

"\_\_\_\_\_ is not at the top of my priority list" or

"\_\_\_\_\_ is not that important to me."

Ouch, that one hurt!

I'm guilty as charged. Once God has brought that to your attention, you need to change something immediately.

### Don't Get Discouraged - Keep Going

God honors a willing heart, not a flawless routine.

Don't let Satan cover you in guilt and shame. That's his tactic to keep us from all that God has for us.





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## Final Encouragement

Studying the Bible doesn't have to be complicated.

Keep it simple.

Stay consistent.

Trust God to teach you.

If you show up regularly with an open heart, **God will meet you in His Word.**



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## **Additional Resources:**

### **Simple Bible Study Checklist**

Use this every time you study:

- ◇ Pray
  
  - ◇ Read the passage
  
  - ◇ Observe key details
  
  - ◇ Understand the context
  
  - ◇ Interpret carefully
  
  - ◇ Apply personally
  
  - ◇ Write it down
-



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## Recommended Bible Study Resources

Here are a few resources I use or have created

### Bibles

- KJV Bible
- NKJV Bible

### Online Tools and Resources

- [ChristianEssentialsPodcast.com](http://ChristianEssentialsPodcast.com)
- [Online School of Biblical Studies](http://OnlineSchoolofBiblicalStudies.com)
- [EnduringWord.com](http://EnduringWord.com) – David Guzik Commentary
- [BibleGateway.com](http://BibleGateway.com)
- [BlueLetterBible.org](http://BlueLetterBible.org)
- Olive Tree Bible Study App – Free App available through Google Play, Apple Store, etc.

### Reference Tools

- Bible dictionaries – Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible
- Concordances – Strong's Concordance for KJV
- Commentaries (use sparingly) – Commentaries can be valuable, but remember they are based on someone else's insight. Pray – Ask God for His instruction before defaulting to these reference materials



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## Journaling Tools

- Notebook or journal
  - Pens or highlighters
  - Digital note apps
  - Evernote
  - OneNote
  - Use Cloud storage to gain access to your tools from any device
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