

## New Basic Christian Bible Study

This guided Bible study is designed to acquaint you with

1. Who God is and who you are to God
2. What God has done for you and wants to do in and through you.
3. Jesus life and ministry.
4. Some highlights of the Old Testament.

As you read these passages in the Bible daily you'll find yourself being grounded in your new life and faith as well as in the Word of God.

First, establish a time and place where you'll have some quiet time to read and think about what you read. You're not just reading, you're entering into communication with God Who inspired these Biblical words to be written. Expect to have insights beyond what you could come up with on your own. Expect God to speak to you about your life, His love and purpose for you in these passages.

Read and ponder, or meditate on what you're reading. Ask God, "What does this mean for me?" Listen. In a notebook write down your thoughts about the passage. Visualize the passage, that is, see it in pictures or video in your mind. In some of the incidents in which you'll read about Jesus, put yourself right in the scene. Imagine what your observation or response would have been to Jesus' actions and words.

Each daily reading should take around 15 minutes to read, write and think about. The readings are numbered and you could read through them as listed. Or, you can skip around if you'd like. There are 39 days of reading, so try to establish your Bible reading habit through the next couple of months. Try spending time in your Bible at least 5 times a week. Note: The Bible passages written like, "John 3:16, means that they are located in the book of John, chapter three and verse 16.

### Readings:

1. John 3:16, Romans 10:9-10. When you believed in Jesus Christ, that He died on the cross for your sins and that He rose from the dead, you passed into new life! You probably gave it some thought, perhaps had discussion with others and then, when you were ready, you put your faith in Jesus Christ. In that instant you were saved from your old way of life and became a new kind of person. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.
2. Paul, an early follower of Jesus, was writing to some new Christians in Ephesus, then a Roman province and now part of Turkey. He wanted them to know what their condition was before, what God had done and what was happening to them. Read slowly and apply each concept to your life. Ephesians 2:1-10.
3. Later in the letter to the Ephesians, Paul wanted them to know that their new life was more than doctrine, it was meant to be a relationship, a

relationship of love with God and other Christians! Ephesians 3:14-21.

4. In the next chapter of the letter Paul gave them some instructions about the practical aspects of their new life. Ephesians 4:17-32.
5. In Ephesians 1:15-23, Paul prays for these people, and you, so that they would have deep experiential and spiritual knowledge about their new existence. Notice in these Ephesian passages that Paul takes every opportunity to praise Jesus as the Son of God. Take a few moments and directly tell Jesus what you think about Him as your Savior.
6. Christ in you! You're now indwelt by the Holy Spirit! Ephesians 1:13-14. Colossians 1:27. Read what Jesus told His disciples about Who the Holy Spirit would be for/with/in them. John 14:16-18; 16:12-15.

You've been reading your Bible for about a week now. It's time you began to study deeper. Take a notebook and write in today's date. Next put down the Bible passage address for that day. Like Galatians 5:22-23 Pray for insight then write down one single sentence or phrase that stands out to you. Next write down how that applies to you and how you're going to install it in your life. Finally write that application out like a prayer! Do this every day.

7. Galatians 5:22-23. Paul writes to his friends in Galatia, a Roman province that would be like the county or state you live in. He wanted them to know

the rich resources they had because Jesus had died for them. He describes these as fruit, like an orchard with many fruit trees. Like the fruit of patience could be represented by an apple tree. Each fruit laden tree is in the orchard of your soul for you to pick what you need in any situation.

8. Peter, one of Jesus' disciples later wrote about the resources you have to live the kind of life Jesus intended for you. 2 Peter 1:3-11. In what areas of your life do you need to apply these realities? How can you implement these truths?
9. Now let's begin getting acquainted with Jesus through one of His four biographers when He walked the earth. Matthew was a tax collector who became one of His disciples. Mark writes from the perspective of Peter who was his mentor. Luke, although not one of Jesus' followers, was a historian who did intensive investigation in the writing of his Gospel. John was a fisherman who became one of Jesus' most beloved disciples. As you read accounts of Jesus words and actions, imagine yourself there in the scene. Picture the scene in your mind as you get to know Jesus better. Read Mark 1:14-20 and 40-45. Imagine yourself as the leper and what it would be like to experience Jesus' touch. Is there some area of your life where you need Jesus' touch now? Imagine that scene with Jesus bringing healing/restoration to some part of your life. Thank Him for His touch.

10. Read Matthew 3:13 through 4:11. After John baptizes Jesus, God's voice speaks from heaven affirming Jesus' identity and the Father's love. Then, Jesus is led into the wilderness for a show down with Satan. Why these three temptations? How did Jesus respond to each? What keys can you gain about how to respond to temptation?
11. Remember the Christmas story? Read it in Luke 2:1-20, about Jesus entrance into the world as a baby, the Son of God. Read John's take on Jesus coming to earth as a man in John 1:1-18.
12. Jesus begins His ministry in the Galilean region of Judea, about 70 miles north of Jerusalem. That's where He called His disciple to follow Him. Read Luke 4:14-30. After He declared His mission in the synagogue of Nazareth He didn't get a good reception in His hometown.
13. Even though Jesus healed people and taught with a new authority, skeptics begin to check Him out. Some of these were religious leaders, the Pharisees. Read Mark 2:1-11. Play the scene in your mind, first as one of the paralytic's friends, then as one of the Pharisees, then as the paralytic. Hear Jesus saying those words to you.
14. We'll revisit more of the incidents from Jesus' life later, but now let's turn our attention to the last major events in His life, His crucifixion and resurrection. Read Luke 23:32-56. Perhaps you've seen a movie depiction of these events. Crucifixion and the flogging that preceded it were cruel treatments, yet Jesus took that punishment and more to pay for your sins. Any punishment you deserved was satisfied by Jesus suffering and death.
15. Read Luke 24:1-12 and Matthew 28:1-10 for two accounts on His resurrection. Read Colossians 1:13-14; 21-22 and 2:13-15 for Paul's description of Jesus death and resurrection and what they mean for you.
16. What we call the Old Testament or covenant was first the Scriptures of the Israelites, the Jewish faith. Moses is considered to be the author of the first five books of the Old Testament. He was the one who led the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt around 1400 bc. Our first reading from the Old Testament will be Genesis 3, where we learn about the first humans, Adam and Eve, their close relationship with God and how it all went wrong.
17. As God began to work history toward a way to restore what went wrong in Genesis 3, He chose a people through Abraham who became the Israelites. After He brought them out of Egypt on their journey to the promised land, He established a covenant with them, giving them the 10 commandments. Read Exodus 20.
18. Because God knew they wouldn't keep the commandments He established the tabernacle, later the Temple, with a sacrificial system, whereby when they sacrificed an animal, its blood would gain them forgiveness of their sins. Exodus 40 and Leviticus 1:1-13. Although such a process seems primitive to

us now, God graciously gave them a way to walk in His favor even after they'd broken one of the commandments.

19. Read John 1:29 and 35-36. Also read 1 Peter 1:18-21 and notice how these New Testament writers identified Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament sacrifices.
20. Read Joshua 1:1-11. After Moses, the iconic leader, died, Joshua was appointed to lead the Israelites into the promised land. Joshua successfully lead them to conquer and settle the land God had given them.
21. You may have heard about King David, the second King of Israel. His leadership enabled them to consolidate the kingdom and protect it from attacks. One of the most famous stories about David was when he killed the giant Goliath, when he was still a boy. Read 1 Samuel 17.
22. David was not only a warrior but a passionate worshipper of God. Many of his poems about/to God are preserved in the large book in the middle of the Bible, Psalms. Read Psalm 23 for a taste of David's trust and love for God.
23. Now we'll return to the New Testament letters to gain more insight into the new life Jesus died for you to experience. Read Romans 5:1-11. Notice the word reconciliation. It's used many times in the New Testament to describe what happened because Jesus died for you and you trusted in Him as your Savior and Lord. Reconciliation, the restoration of a relationship by the removal of an offence on the part of one of the parties. The offence or obstacle was our sin. Jesus removed it when He died for our sin.
24. Read Romans 1:16-32. This describes what happened when human kind refused to acknowledge God and what happens when anyone or any culture refused to acknowledge God. There is a path of destruction, in the wake of rejecting God. Once on this path, as described in Ephesians 2:1-10, which you've already read, no one can work his or her way back to God by good behavior. The only way back into a relationship with God is through Jesus Christ. Read John 14:6.
25. Read Philippians 2:5-16. Not only do we stand in awe at what Jesus gave up and what He did for us, we have an example and motivation to follow His pattern. We can give up our rights and privileges when holding on to them would cause problems in our relationships.
26. Jesus said we are to love one another. Read John 13:34-35. His disciple, John later wrote about the implications of this kind of love. Read 1 John 3:11-24.
27. Loving the way Jesus loves us and taught us to love would be impossible in our human strength. Fortunately the Holy Spirit within us gives us the power to not only love, but to have joy in adverse circumstances. These and other traits are called the 'fruit of the Spirit.' Read Galatians 5:16-26. These become evident as we 'cultivate' our relationship

with Jesus, through the reading you've been doing, praying and worshipping.

- 28. Paul provides some more practical applications for the new life within us in Colossians 3:1-25. Notice that this 'how to live' passage follows 2 chapters of theological foundation. Never forget that living the Christian life isn't a matter of your will power, but your firm foundation in what Jesus did in and for you. In chapter 3, what He did for you in chapter 1-2, He now does through you. Remember the fruit of the Spirit described in Galatians 5, requires deep spiritual roots.
- 29. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray in Matthew 6:9-13. Read this over for insight then personalize the prayer as your own.
- 30. Jesus taught in parables, stories about common things with a spiritual meaning. Read Mark 4:1-20. How do you understand and apply the meaning of these parables?
- 31. In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables in response to the Pharisees and teachers of the Law grumbling about Him keeping company with the less than desirable on the social ladder.
- 32. Read Luke 10:25-37. What do you understand Jesus to be teaching with this parable? How can you apply it to your life?
- 33. Read John 6:1-24. Envision yourself in this scene as one of the crowd, as one of the disciples. What's the impact on you?
- 34. Read John 6:23-70. This longer teaching follows up the incident of Jesus feeding the crowds. He understood that some of them were interested in Him as a provider of bread. He uses bread as a metaphor to move them to a spiritual truth. What point is He making? How do the crowds react.
- 35. Read James 1:1-18. This James is the half brother of Jesus and writes this letter as a leader in the early church. He's specifically addressing Christians who have been persecuted and have fled from Jerusalem to settle in different areas of the Roman Empire.
- 36. Read James 1:19-27. Continue with the practical counsel of this letter. How important is listening to someone to understand what they are saying and how they feel. Can you do that instead of thinking about what you're going to say while they're talking. God's righteous life, or the righteous life that God requires isn't a religious concept. Instead it's a picture of the best case scenario of the situation being discussed. Like the best version or yourself or your marriage. God can bring it about if you keep your anger out of a conversation.
- 37. Paul was mentor to Timothy who was now pastor of the church at Ephesus. In this letter Paul gives Timothy instructions about life in the church. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-19. How do these verses speak to your life? What changes in your financial perspective/operation do you need to make to line up with this teaching?

38. Philippians 4:4-13. Paul offers practical counsel about prayer, peace and contentment.
39. Read Hebrews 11:1-31, a treatise on genuine faith. How can this guide you in the development of your faith?
40. Read Hebrews 12:1-13. What insight do you gain from these verses about your relationship with God?