

session 11 study guide

the Bible

starter

THE RULES: Are there times when you're more or less likely to follow directions? Place an *X* beside each situation to indicate the likelihood of you following the rules.

	More Likely	Less Likely
Putting together a new bike.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My parents tell me to clean the house.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A teacher gives me a special homework assignment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Bible tells me what to do with my life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm driving on the highway and no one is looking.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. What are your reasons for following directions in the situations when you're more likely to follow the rules?

2. What are your reasons for *not* following directions in the situations when you're less likely to follow the rules?

message

When you don't follow the rules, there can be unfortunate consequences. For each scriptural command below, list three possible results of not knowing or not living out the Bible's instructions.

"Love your neighbor as yourself" (Galatians 5:14).

1.

2.

3.

“Honor your father and your mother” (Exodus 20:12).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

“Avoid sexual immorality” (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

dig

While the Bible has some pretty straightforward guidelines for God’s people to follow, it’s much more than a rulebook. But what exactly is it? Here are a few questions to answer individually, with a partner or in a group that will help you get to know your Bible.

1. How many books are in the Bible? _____
2. How many books are in the Old Testament (sometimes called the Hebrew Bible)? _____
3. How many books are in the New Testament? _____
4. In what language was most of the Old Testament originally written? _____
5. In what language was the New Testament originally written? _____
6. The Old Testament is divided into four parts. Name them.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
7. The New Testament is divided into four parts. Name them.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
8. What was the language that Jesus most likely spoke during His earthly ministry? _____

apply

As anyone who has a friend knows, *knowing about* someone is not the same as *knowing* that person. It's the same with God's Word. Knowing facts about the Bible is good, but it's nowhere near as important as knowing the Word of God and hiding it in our hearts, letting it change us from the inside out. Read the following Scriptures, and then answer the questions that follow.

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful (Joshua 1:8).

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and

night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish (Psalm 1).

1. According to Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1, what are the benefits of meditating on (thinking about) God's Word?

2. These Scriptures are not saying that problems will never come our way. But they do seem to say that those who continually place the Word of God in their hearts will have lives that are enriched by fulfillment and meaning. Throughout Scripture, God promises blessings to those who integrate His Word into their lives. These blessings include:

- peace
- joy
- truth
- help to overcome sin
- direction in life

Read each Scripture below, and then write the word from the list above that best describes the result of following God's Word.

Psalm 119:11: _____

Psalm 119:105: _____

John 8:31-36: _____

John 15:11: _____

John 16:33: _____

John 17:17: _____

3. For a better understanding of why we should read the Bible, take a look at 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does it say about Scripture?

4. What is Scripture useful for?

5. How can you see Scripture affecting your life in each of these ways?

To know the Word and to live by it, you will need to take daily time to read the Bible. To develop a habit of Bible reading, it is best to have a consistent time and place. When and where will you take time to put God's Word to work in your life? You'll need a method. How will you begin?

Here are three suggestions:

1. *A Month of Praise and Wisdom.* By reading less than 10 minutes a day for one month, you can go through the books of Psalms and Proverbs. The psalms are the beautiful songs of the Hebrew people, and the proverbs contain great, practical advice on many aspects of life. All you need to do is read five psalms and one proverb each day, and after a month you will have completed two of the greatest books in the Bible. Then you will be ready for a new plan and you will already have started the positive habit of reading the Bible each day.
2. *The 90-Day Experience.* Try an experiment that will change your life! You can read the entire New Testament in less than three months if you'll take 15 minutes a day, reading approximately 3 chapters per day. Listed is a format you can use to try this experiment. You'll be excited to see the positive results of incorporating biblical principles into your life.¹

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Matthew 1–4 | 25. John 7–9 | 49. 1 Corinthians 15–16 |
| 2. Matthew 5–7 | 26. John 10–12 | 50. 2 Corinthians 1–3 |
| 3. Matthew 8–10 | 27. John 13–16:4 | 51. 2 Corinthians 4–6 |
| 4. Matthew 11–13 | 28. John 16:5–18 | 52. 2 Corinthians 7–9 |
| 5. Matthew 14–16 | 29. John 19–21 | 53. 2 Corinthians 1–13 |
| 6. Matthew 17–19 | 30. Acts 1–3 | 54. Galatians 1–2 |
| 7. Matthew 20–22 | 31. Acts 4–6 | 55. Galatians 3–4 |
| 8. Matthew 23–25 | 32. Acts 7–9 | 56. Galatians 5–6 |
| 9. Matthew 26–28 | 33. Acts 10–12 | 57. Ephesians 1–3 |
| 10. Mark 1–3 | 34. Acts 13–15 | 58. Ephesians 4–6 |
| 11. Mark 4–6 | 35. Acts 16–18 | 59. Philippians 1–2 |
| 12. Mark 7–9 | 36. Acts 19–21:36 | 60. Philippians 3–4 |
| 13. Mark 10–12 | 37. Acts 21:37–25:22 | 61. Colossians 1–2 |
| 14. Mark 13–16 | 38. Acts 25:23–28:30 | 62. Colossians 3–4 |
| 15. Luke 1–3 | 39. Romans 1–3 | 63. 1 Thessalonians 1–3 |
| 16. Luke 4–6 | 40. Romans 4–6 | 64. 1 Thessalonians 4–5 |
| 17. Luke 7–9 | 41. Romans 7–8 | 65. 2 Thessalonians 1–3 |
| 18. Luke 10–12 | 42. Romans 9–11 | 66. 1 Timothy 1–3 |
| 19. Luke 13–15 | 43. Romans 12–13 | 67. 1 Timothy 4–6 |
| 20. Luke 16–18 | 44. Romans 14–16 | 68. 2 Timothy 1–4 |
| 21. Luke 19–21 | 45. 1 Corinthians 1–4 | 69. Titus 1–3 |
| 22. Luke 22–24 | 46. 1 Corinthians 5–7 | 70. Philemon |
| 23. John 1–3 | 47. 1 Corinthians 8–11 | 71. Hebrews 1–2 |
| 24. John 4–6 | 48. 1 Corinthians 12–14 | 72. Hebrews 3–4:13 |

73. Hebrews 4:14-7	79. 1 Peter 3:8-5	85. Revelation 4-6
74. Hebrews 8-10	80. 2 Peter 1-3	86. Revelation 7-9
75. Hebrews 11-13	81. 1 John 1-3:10	87. Revelation 10-12
76. James 1-3:12	82. 1 John 3:11-5	88. Revelation 13-15
77. James 3:13-5	83. 2 John; 3 John; Jude	89. Revelation 16-18
78. 1 Peter 1-3:7	84. Revelation 1-3	90. Revelation 19-22

3. *Devotional Books:* Devotional books are written to plant the Word of God in your life and give you practical insight in your walk with God. In just 10 to 15 minutes a day, you can complete a devotional reading. Usually a devotional book has a Scripture, a story and a challenge or action steps for each day. Talk with your youth leader or other adult about some recommendations for devotional resources.

reflect

1. Some people have estimated that there are more than 3,000 promises in the Bible. Many of those promises are related to the area of prayer. Read each Scripture below, and then write out its promise and how it affects your life.

The promise in Isaiah 26:3:

How it affects my life:

The promise in Isaiah 40:31:

How it affects my life:

The promise in Jeremiah 33:3:

How it affects my life:

The promise in Matthew 6:33:

How it affects my life:

The promise in John 14:14:

How it affects my life:

The promise in Philippians 4:6-7:

How it affects my life:

The promise in Philippians 4:19:

How it affects my life:

The promise in 1 John 5:14-15:

How it affects my life:

2. What are the advantages of reading the Bible daily?

3. Why do you think God has given us the Bible to read?

4. What keeps you from spending more time in God's Word?

5. What specific steps will you take in the coming week to begin a daily habit of Bible study?

meditation



Do not let this Book of the Law depart from
your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do
everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

JOSHUA 1:8

Note

1. Jim Burns, *90 Days Through the New Testament* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990), pp. 15-135. Used by permission.