

Free Printable Bible Study Lessons with Questions and Answers (PDF)

Leader's Edition — with Answers

A free, ungated library of printable Bible study guides, plus one reusable worksheet you can use on any passage in Scripture.

A reusable method and printable worksheet for studying any passage of the Bible.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; 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 (NIV)

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV)

The study guide

STEP 1 · ANY PASSAGE

Pray and Read

Before you study a single word, ask God to teach you, then read the passage slowly and out loud more than once. Study begins as prayer, not as homework.

1. What did you ask God for before you opened the passage, and how did naming that change the way you came to the text?

Leader's note: There is no right answer here. The question is aiming at the posture of the heart before we study. Psalm 119:18 is a good prayer to borrow: "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law." Invite people to say what they asked for, and whether it changed the way they came.

2. After reading the passage slowly two or three times, what is your first honest impression of what it is about?

Leader's note: Let the first impression stand as it is, even if it is rough. Reading slowly two or three times helps the passage speak before we start explaining it. Write down the impression now so you can return to it after the later steps and see what changed.

3. Which word, phrase, or image stopped you on the way through and made you want to read it again?

Leader's note: The word or image that stops you is often where God is speaking. Circle it and do not rush past it. Ask why it caught you, and let that lead you into the steps that follow.

STEP 2 · ANY PASSAGE

Observe, What does it say?

Before you decide what a passage means, see what is actually on the page. Notice who is speaking, what is happening, where and when, and which words the text repeats.

1. Who are the people in this passage, what is happening to them, and where and when does it take place?

Answer this from the text alone. Name the people, what is happening to them, and the place and time if the passage gives them. Look at the verses just before and after for clues. If the passage is a letter or a psalm, ask who is speaking and to whom.

2. Which words or ideas are repeated, and how is the passage built, by contrast, by command, by promise, or by story?

Look for words used more than once, since repeating is how Scripture stresses what matters. Then notice how the passage is built. It may set two things against each other, give commands, make promises, or tell a story. The shape of a passage often shows what its author wants us to see.

3. What does the passage say plainly that you might have rushed past if you were reading quickly?

Slow down and read for what is plainly there, without adding to it. A small detail, a name, or a short word like "but" or "therefore" can carry a lot. Write down one thing you missed the first time, and ask why it might be there.

STEP 3 · ANY PASSAGE

Interpret, What does it mean?

Now ask what the passage meant in its own setting before asking what it means for you. Read it in context, picture its first audience, and watch for how it points to Christ.

1. What did this passage mean to the people who first heard or read it, given what comes before and after it?

Read the verses around the passage and think about who first heard it, what they were facing, and what the writer wanted them to know. A verse cannot mean what it never meant to its first hearers. That is what keeps us from making Scripture say what we want.

2. What does this passage show you about who God is and what he is like?

Scripture is God showing himself to us, so every passage tells us something about him. Look for what he does, what he says, and what he loves. Ask what this passage shows about his holiness, his mercy, his patience, or his faithfulness.

3. How does this passage point forward to Jesus, or fit into the larger story of what God is doing to rescue people?

The whole Bible leads to Jesus. As he told his disciples, all the Scriptures speak of him (Luke 24:27). Ask where a promise, a picture, or a need in this passage finds its answer in Christ, and how it fits into God's larger work to rescue people.

STEP 4 · ANY PASSAGE

Apply, What does it call me to do?

Scripture is meant to be lived, not just understood. Ask what this passage asks of your heart, your relationships, and your actual week.

1. What does this passage call you to believe, change, confess, or trust, right where you are today?

Leader's note: This question moves from the page to the heart. Try to be specific, naming one thing to believe, change, confess, or trust. James 1:22 reminds us that we are not only to listen but to do what the word says. Invite people to answer honestly and simply.

2. How does it speak to your relationships, the people you live with, work with, and struggle to love?

Leader's note: Relationships are where Scripture becomes real, since they are often where we struggle most. Invite each person to think of one name. Ask what this passage might be asking of you toward that person, and pray for one another.

3. What is one specific thing you can do this week in response to what you have seen?

Leader's note: Keep this one small enough to actually do. A single, clear step is better than a long list. Write it down, tell someone in the group, and come back next week to say how it went.

STEP 5 • ANY PASSAGE

Respond, Pray it back and memorize

Close by turning the passage into prayer and carrying one line of it with you. Praying Scripture back to God is how it sinks from the page into the heart.

1. How would you pray this passage back to God, in your own words, naming what it stirred in you?

Leader's note: There is no set way to do this. Praying Scripture back means using its own words to speak to God, naming what it stirred in you, whether thanks, sorrow, or need. Start with one sentence and let the passage give you the words.

2. Which single verse or phrase from this passage do you want to memorize and carry into your week?

Leader's note: Choose a verse short enough to remember. Psalm 119:11 says, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Write your verse on a card and carry it, and say it aloud a few times each day this week.

3. Looking back over all five steps, what is the one thing you do not want to forget from this passage?

Leader's note: This question asks you to look back across observe, interpret, apply, and respond. Choose the one truth or word that stayed with you most. Write it at the top of your page, so it is what you carry into the week.