



THE GATHERING WELL

# PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY

A KNOWING JESUS GROWTH GUIDE





# PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY

- 01** OUR SPIRITUAL POSTURE
- 02** OUR PURPOSE FOR STUDY
- 03** OUR PRESENCE BEFORE GOD
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# THE HEART OF *knowing Jesus*

The Gathering Well uses these three focus areas of Spiritual Formation to support our approach to the journey of faith.



## BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Communication with God is our starting point. Any resources with this icon are designed to support and equip you to pray, using Scripture as our primary lens and providing questions and prompts to encourage you to talk with God consistently.



## STUDY THE BIBLE

All of our resources are anchored in the truth of God's Word. This icon will indicate spaces where you will engage the Scriptures. We seek to provide educational resources and tools that will help God's Word come alive to you.



## BUILD COMMUNITY

We believe that the life of faith is expressed in community, not isolation. Resources and prompts marked with this icon are geared toward reminding you that we are designed to be in relationship with God *and* with others.





# OUR SPIRITUAL POSTURE



When you see the word **posture** here, we aren't talking about whether you choose to sit or stand to read your Bible. When you see the word **posture**, we want you to think about **the particular way you are considering and approaching the word of God**. Your posture isn't just your physical state of being; it is your spiritual state of being.

Consider the questions below to help take an inventory of your mindset towards Bible study.

»» what is my attitude towards Bible study?

»» what do I think Bible study is?

»» what makes Bible study something I don't want to do?

»» what makes Bible study something I desire to do?

»» Am I trusting the Holy Spirit to guide me or am I depending on my own ability?



## PRAY

*Lord, help me to study the Bible with a posture of humility, vulnerability, and surrender to learn from you. Thank you for giving me the Holy Spirit to teach me all things and bring to my mind all that you have said. Settle my heart and mind to reflect on my posture towards Bible study today. Amen.*

(Adapted from John 14:27)

Use this space to write down the things that the Holy Spirit is bringing to your mind about your posture when you come to study your Bible.



## DIG DEEPER

Read and reflect on the following passages. Can you see keywords or a common theme that reflects the posture of the author toward God's Word? Write them below.



**PSALM 119:97**

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**ROMANS 7:22**

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**PSALM 40:8**

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**HEBREWS 8:10**

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# OUR PURPOSE FOR STUDY



Our experiences with what we know about the Bible are incredibly vast. There are people that have devoted their entire lives to seeking an understanding of the depth and breadth of God's **inerrant** and **infallible** Word. We will never fully grasp the incomprehensible nature of God (on this side of eternity) and that includes aspects of Scripture. However, **it does not mean we do not have a reason or purpose for going to our Bible** to study and discover all that God has revealed in it to those that seek Him there.

## Think about why we study the Bible:

- »» To learn God's story of creation
- »» To see God's provision throughout the story of Scripture
- »» To know God's character of compassion, mercy, and justice
- »» To remember God's promises
- »» To understand God's redemptive plan for the world
- »» To become more like Christ in how we live as a result of grace



## PRAY

*Lord, help me to set my mind on the things above. Please help me to focus on you and the things of heaven. Remind me that this life is fleeting, but you are eternal. Amen.*

(Adapted from Colossians 3:1-4)

Use this space to write down what the Holy Spirit is bringing to your mind about your purpose when studying your Bible. When you study scripture, are you reading to discover something about yourself or God?



## DIG DEEPER

Read and reflect on the following passages. Can you see keywords or a common theme that reflects the posture of the author toward God's Word? Write them below.



**2 TIMOTHY  
3:16**

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**HEBREWS 4:12**

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**MATTHEW 4:4**

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**EPHESIANS  
6:10-20**

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## THE INVITATION

Read 2 Timothy 3:16 - 17, and answer the following questions.

What words describe or show what God's Word "is for"?

How have you experienced God's Word fulfilling these purposes in your life?

# OUR PRESENCE BEFORE GOD



Being present during your time in God's Word, morning, night, or in the middle of the day, is an increasing challenge in a world filled with distraction. **Our prayer is that we would be present with God as we sit with Him in His Word.** He is already present with us in every moment. **How can you be intentional** in joining Him where He already is as you study the Bible?

*we know that...*

**TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE IS TO EXPERIENCE  
THE SHINING OF GOD'S FACE.**

*See Psalm 67:1*

**WE ALWAYS LIVE IN GOD'S PRESENCE AND HE NOTICES ALL WE DO**

*See Malachi 3:16*

**HE HAS PROMISED TO BE WITH US UNTIL HE COMES AGAIN**

*See Matthew 28:20*



Begin with prayer. What can you ask God to help you work through in being present with Him in His Word?

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## GET PRACTICAL

Look at Psalm 119:9 - 16 to see what practical principles you can discover to help you think about how you can be present in God's Word.

what does the writer of this passage seek the Lord with?

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what has the writer stored up in their heart? why?

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what does the writer delight in?

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what does the writer meditate on?

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what steps do the answers to your questions motivate you to take in growing in your rhythm of Bible study?

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# OUR PLAN OF SURRENDER



We never want to encourage you to pursue your relationship with Jesus as you would a to-do list or a business plan. Your relationship with Jesus is one that is **personal, intimate, and fueled by His love for you** - not the other way around. We encourage you to make a plan and **surrender that plan to Jesus**. Begin with a prayer that asks God to help you determine how to make Bible study an intentional part of your life.

*Work through this short self-assessment and then take your answers to the Lord in prayer.*

**How is God stirring and leading you, as you make an intentional plan to study the scriptures?**

1

**I think most clearly....**

IN THE  
MORNING

AROUND  
MIDDAY

IN THE  
EVENING

2

**I typically prefer...**

A PLAN &  
STRUCTURE

BIG TIME  
FLEXIBILITY

A MIX OF  
BOTH

3

**A few places that would be available to me for study are:**

4

**Think of the hours of your day like you would a budget. Are there any things you could *stop* spending time on, in exchange for time in the Word?**

## PRAY IT THROUGH

*God, You author my days – give me insight here about choosing well:*



## LET'S REFLECT

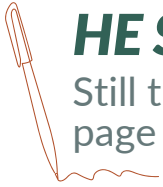
Think about what it means to surrender ourselves to God's plan. Surrendering requires us to give up our understanding of control and release our lives into the care of the Lord, trusting the Holy Spirit to provide what we need to be able to do this. Use the questions below to guide you in laying your burdens at the feet of the cross.

Think of the different areas of your life (home, work, school, etc). Which area do you struggle the most to surrender to the Lord? What fear might be behind that struggle?

Consider your daily tasks in this area. What is one way you can practice surrendering to the Lord as you go about your day?

Write a prayer of surrender. Imagine handing your fear, or task, or circumstance over to the Lord. Invite Him to be in control of this area of struggle.





## **HE SEES ME HERE**

Still thinking? Still reflecting? Have questions? Here you go: use this page as you wish for your own prayers and musings.

A large rectangular area filled with a light gray dot grid pattern, intended for writing or drawing.



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(psst... its free)

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## **THE GATHERING WELL**

Helping Everyday People Become Everyday  
Leaders Who Know, Follow and Grow with Jesus.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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