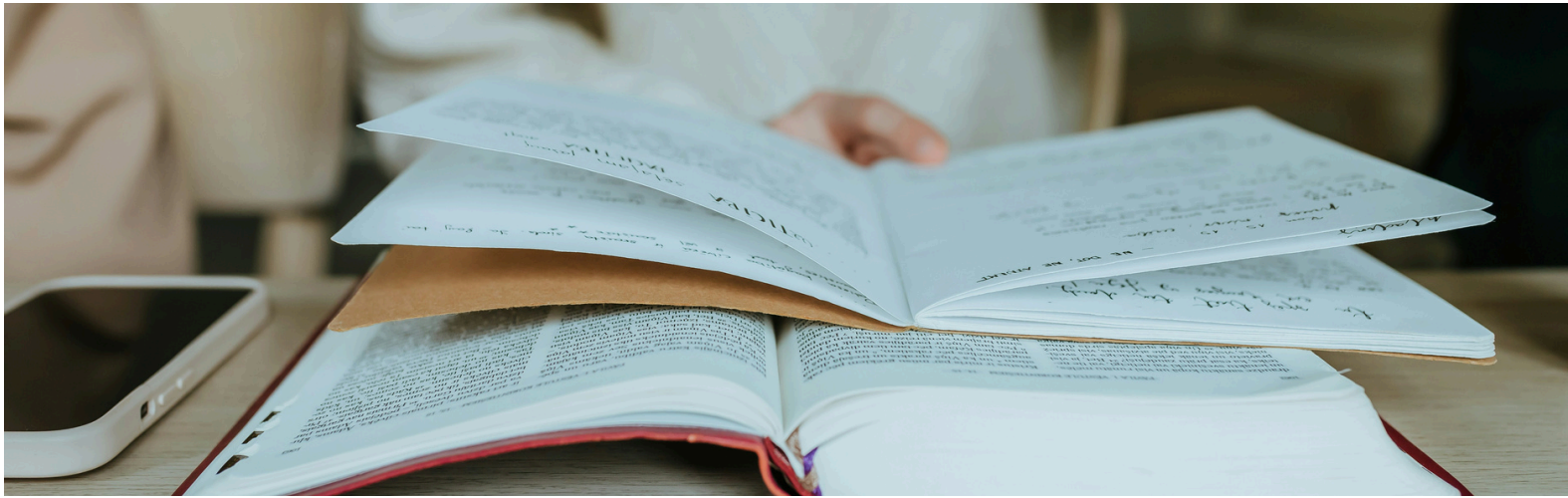




THE GATHERING WELL

BIBLE STUDY IN PRACTICE

A KNOWING JESUS GROWTH GUIDE



BIBLE STUDY IN PRACTICE

- 01** RELYING ON THE SPIRIT
- 02** REFLECTING ON OUR PURPOSE
- 03** BEING PRESENT AS HE IS PRESENT
- 04** SURRENDERING TO HIM



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.



SOME REMINDERS



The Bible does not offer us abundant life. Jesus does. And all of Scripture points to the person of Jesus. Therefore, studying the Bible is something we seek to do for the purpose of growing what **our hearts** know about God, not just what our minds can know about Him.

The principles of Bible study include:

YOUR POSTURE

THE WAY YOU APPROACH STUDYING THE BIBLE

THE PURPOSE

THE REASONS YOU CONSIDER + APPROACH STUDYING THE BIBLE

YOUR PRESENCE

SHOWING UP WITH INTENT AND FOCUS

THE PLAN

MAKING BIBLE STUDY A PRIORITY & A RHYTHM OF YOUR LIFE



PRAY and ask the Holy Spirit to help you keep first things first as you consider how to study your Bible. Allow the Spirit to remind you that abundant life comes through Christ alone and tell the Lord how grateful you are for that. Write your prayer in the space provided.

RELYING ON THE SPIRIT



Whether you are coming to read the Bible for yourself or listen to it read to you, **the posture of your heart and mind as you sit to engage the Scriptures will influence you** and this time with God. **This is why we encourage you to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide you in studying the Bible.**

“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

John 14:25-27 ESV

How do you rely on yourself when studying the Bible?

How can you rely on the Holy Spirit when studying the Bible?



DIG DEEPER

Read Galatians 5:16-26. Use the study steps below to look at what Paul says about how the Holy Spirit should lead us.

Observe the text by circling, highlighting, and/or underlining what you see in the passage. You might identify such things as: instructions, repeated words or phrases, references to time, people, or places, connections ("therefore", "and", "thus", etc.). Write down your key observations below.

What do these observations help you see or understand about what God is saying in His Word?

What does this reveal about God and the life that He desires for me, particularly as it relates to the Holy Spirit?

REFLECTING ON OUR PURPOSE



There are many things that lead us to the end of ourselves and the start of our relationship with Jesus. Often, these are the same reasons that lead us to study the Bible. **We are searching for answers, often to big questions.** Maybe you've been studying the Bible for years or maybe you're just starting. Regardless of where you are on the journey – **there was and is a reason for why you've opened the pages of this ancient text.**

List some of the reasons or circumstances that have led you to study or want to study the Bible.



PRAY

Lord, I want to know you more through the practice of studying my Bible. Thank you that I can come to you and come to study the Bible just exactly as I am and ask your Holy Spirit to teach me. I am coming to study because _____
_____. Teach me _____
_____ so that I can continue to grow in my relationship with you through your Son, Jesus. I want to know more about you in a way that **increases my love for you, not just my knowledge of you.** Thank you that you are faithful to do this and more.

Amen.

EXAMINE THE TEXT

When reading scripture, it is crucial to consider The Grand Narrative. The Grand Narrative is the story God is telling over all of time and is often identified in these four words: **Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration**. The Bible consists of 66 books, all from a unique human writer, writing style, historical perspective, or circumstantial precedent that points to Jesus and sits within this Grand Narrative. One practice or tool of studying the Bible within The Grand Narrative is **correlation**. Correlation is the practice of understanding how one piece of scripture fits with another to help tell the bigger story.

Consider the passages below. What relationship can you see between these two passages? Specifically, consider if there is a relationship between faith and works that these passages help you see.

Ephesians 2:8-10



James 2:17-18

“We shouldn’t pit one passage against another. Rather, we work to understand how they fit together. As we do so, we get to know the Lord who made Himself known in the Scripture.”

PETER KROL

BEING PRESENT AS HE IS PRESENT



We are encouraged and reminded that **God is always with us**. His presence is constant. It can be challenging to feel or believe God is with us, but we cling to the hope that He is. However, in a world filled with and fueled by distractions — **we are not always present with God**. The hope is that when we are present in our Bible study and the other practices of our faith, **we can be and are present with God as He is already present with us**.

What has God shown you or taught you about being present with Him in His Word?

Set an alarm or reminder to do it. What practical step can you take to make time to study God's Word intentionally?

Eliminate distractions, if you can, and give yourself grace when you can't. What distractions can you work to eliminate? What distractions can you ask God to help you navigate?



EXPLORE THE TEXT

Choose a passage of scripture (5-10 verses) to practice studying.
Follow the steps outlined below.

Copy the passage

Choose 2-3 verses from your chosen passage of scripture and write them word for word.

Create a thesis statement

If you had to come up with a thesis statement, or one sentence that captures the main point of this passage- what would you say? Think about how you might tell a friend what this passage says over coffee.

Reflect and respond

What does this reveal about God and the life that He desires for me?

SURRENDERING TO HIM



God had a plan of rescue that He carried out in His Son, Jesus. **We can have a plan of surrender.** Having a plan to set a rhythm of Bible study as a part of your life **does not** mean you create a checklist that you are bound to. **It means you create a way to hold yourself accountable to growing in your relationship with Jesus** through spending time studying the many literary styles that tell His story over and over again.



Consider the questions in this section as you pray about a plan for consistent Bible study in your life. Use this space to intentionally think about how you can grow in this rhythm of relationship with Jesus and how it might help you teach others about it too.

How often will you study the Bible? When will you make time to study the Bible?

What resources will you use to help you study the Bible?

Who will you invite to study the Bible with you?



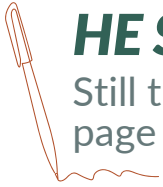
THE INVITATION

Intimacy with God is a part of what helps us grow to trust Him. We can surrender to God because we can trust Him completely. Read Psalm 139:1-18 and use the study steps below to examine what David says about the intimacy that exists between God and His creation.

Observe the text by circling, highlighting, and/or underlining what you see in the passage. You might identify such things as: instructions, repeated words or phrases, references to time, people, or places, connections ("therefore", "and", "thus", etc.). Write down your key observations below.

What do these observations help you see or understand about what God is saying in His Word?

What can you trust God with today, to continue growing in your practice of Bible study?



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.



Become a member
(psst... its free)

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THE GATHERING WELL

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

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