

# — THE — BIBLE STUDY

YOUTH EDITION

A 90-DAY STUDY OF THE BIBLE AND HOW IT RELATES TO YOU

ZACH WINDAHL



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**STUDY**

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TO THE BIBLE STUDY

**WELCOME**

YOUTH EDITION

# 90-DAY

I know that God aligned our paths on purpose, and I couldn't be more excited about what he is going to do in your life during this 90-day journey together through the Bible. By the time we are finished, you will have read the entire New Testament and gone through overviews from each book of the Old Testament.

My prayer is not only for you to have a better understanding of the Word, but that you will also find a better sense of meaning for your life and really understand the heart of our Father. He loves you so much. It's amazing.

Before we dive in, I want to share a little bit about my testimony. Who knows, you and I might even share some things in common. We're in this thing called life together. Let's go!

## My search for meaning

Identity.

It's what makes you...you.

For many of us it takes years to figure out who we are and what we want to be. For some it comes easy, for others it takes a lifetime.

We have society, parents, teachers, friends, siblings, girlfriends, boyfriends, all telling us how we should be. Everybody in your life has an idea of how you should live and act.

Why is it so easy for them to see it, but so difficult for us to figure out?

If you're like me, I spent years trying to be the person that everyone else wanted me to be. Growing up, people would constantly tell me that I was going to be famous some day and that I should do this or that with my life. It all came from the fact that I was an entrepreneur from an early age and had a pretty unhealthy work ethic to back it. But it didn't matter how unhealthy that work ethic was because I was going to be famous some day and be seen with the elite lol. Or at least that's what I was told.

So my head grew.

And grew. And grew.

And grew.

I believed the hype and did all that I could to live it.

You see, I'm a product of my society. I'm a Bachelor's Degree graduate with \$70k in debt from a Christian University that did anything but spark my interest in God, it actually pushed me further away. Little did I know that the darkness inside of me at the time didn't like the Light inside of the students. Funny how that happens. So, after graduating, I had quite a bad taste in my mouth.

But, I kept talking the talk. I wrote two Christian books my senior year, but didn't have the nerve to promote them like I should have since I didn't even believe what was coming out of my mouth. I went on to run a clothing line and recording studio with some friends, which I left after a few years. I worked on some other entrepreneurial projects after that, but the hard work that I was putting into them was not lining up with the success (or lack thereof). Everything that I touched began to fail. I was "good" though. Or at least that's what I told myself.

In reality, I had no direction for where to go from there. I remember sitting in my car outside of Starbucks talking to my friend Geoff about it. I had never felt so lost in my life. If you know me, you know I always have a plan. But this time I didn't. I was at the bottom. Broken and lost. I had spend the last several years focusing on myself and trying to become the best person I could be. But, to tell you the truth, I'm weak when I try to live life on my own. From the outside, everything looked great but the inside was a whole different story. Even though I thought I was "the man", I was still lacking something. My pride was fully intact, but my heart desired more.

I started to contemplate what all of this was about. I grew up considering myself a Christian, but I had no idea what that truly meant. I hadn't been following God's call at all. I still believed in Him, I just wasn't pursuing Him. I hadn't been to church in over a year for the simple fact that I couldn't stand the majority of Christians that I met because I didn't trust them. They all seemed so fake. So I sat there thinking...

Is life really all about going to college, getting a job, getting married, having kids, buying new things, and then (hopefully) one day retiring so I can enjoy life?

Really? That's it? That all seemed so shallow to me.

Then, let's look at religion. Every religion outside of Christianity takes their faith so seriously, it's insane. And

then there's us. Where only 30% of Christians even read the Bible and the fact that a ton of "Christian" ideals are pretty skewed from the Bible itself - I was fed up.

So I read the Bible. Front to back. In 90 days.

I was blown away by how different the Bible actually is, compared to how it's presented in America. But that's what makes us Christians, right? The fact that we believe and follow Jesus?

Nothing was lining up. I was confused.

So I went on my own "Search for Meaning" journey. I quit my job and moved to a little beach town on the Sunshine Coast of Australia for 9 months to study the Bible for twelve hours a day, six days a week. That's a pretty big leap if you ask me. And at 27 years old it may not have been the wisest of decisions, but I wouldn't have changed it for anything.

My whole reason for this journey was to build a firm foundation in my faith - one that could not be crumbled by society. And that's exactly what I got, plus more.

And that's what my hope is for you - that you are able to build a firm foundation in your faith over the next year. Especially in a time when understanding the Word is one of the most important things that you can do.





# NEW TESTAMENT

FACTS

## Gospels

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John

## Acts

Acts

## Pauline Epistles

Romans  
1 Corinthians  
2 Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
1 Thessalonians  
2 Thessalonians  
1 Timothy  
2 Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon

## Hebrew Christian Epistles

Hebrews  
James  
1 Peter  
2 Peter  
1 John  
2 John  
3 John  
Jude

## Revelation

Revelation

27 Books  
Greek language  
First century AD

# Key Characters

## JOHN THE BAPTIST:

John the Baptist, was the final prophet of the Old Testament who arose after the 400 years of silence that followed the words of Malachi. He was the forerunner of Christ that was to pave the way and prepare the people for Jesus' arrival.

## DISCIPLES:

The word "disciple" means, "a follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosopher" (oxforddictionaries.com). When we talk about the disciples of Jesus, we refer to his twelve closest friends while on Earth. They were Andrew, Bartholomew, James son of Zebedee, James son of Alphaeus, John, Judas Iscariot, Jude the brother of James, Matthew, Peter, Philip, Simon the Zealot, and Thomas. One thing to note is that the majority of disciples were teenagers - how cool is that?!

## JOHN:

John was known as the "Beloved Disciple" because of how much Jesus loved him. He was faithful until the end and was entrusted with taking care of Mary, the mother of Jesus. He wrote one of the Gospels, three letters to his churches in Asia Minor, and the book of Revelation.

## JESUS:

God in the flesh. No need to explain. Read his words and have your mind blown.

## PAUL:

Paul was known as the Hebrew of Hebrews, having studied under the great Gamaliel and was an extreme Pharisee by nature. Paul experienced a radical conversion to Christ (which we will read about in the book of Acts), and he became the greatest missionary of the early Church. Paul founded many churches around the Greco-Roman world, and today we have letters to some of those churches that give us the groundwork for our theology.

## LUKE:

Luke was a physician that partnered with Paul during a portion of his missionary work. He was also the author of a Gospel and the book of Acts, which were both used as testimonies in Paul's Roman trial.

## **PETER:**

Peter was the first disciple that Jesus called to follow him. Jesus knew that he would be a great voice for the Kingdom so he changed his name from Simon (meaning “reed”) to Peter (meaning “rock”) and claimed that the Church would be built upon him. Peter had his ups and downs, but remained faithful to the end. He also gave us some amazing words recorded in his sermon on the day of Pentecost and in his two follow-up epistles.

## **TIMOTHY:**

Timothy was Paul's spiritual son and was greatly loved by Paul himself. He also helped write a few of Paul's letters and had two letters written to him by Paul as encouragement to stand strong in the faith and continue on with the gospel message.

## **JAMES:**

James was a brother of Jesus that didn't believe Jesus was the Messiah until after his resurrection. James, then became one of the top leaders for the church in Jerusalem and was highly respected among other believers. He ended up writing the book of James as “wisdom literature” to be added to the New Testament. It has been told that after he was martyred, his friends saw his knees for the first time and they were like the knees of camels from spending so much time in prayer.

# DAY ONE

**READ:** Mark 1-5

**AUTHOR:** Mark aka John Mark

**DATE:** AD 55-60 or AD 64-68

**AUDIENCE:** Christians in Rome

**THEME:** Jesus as the suffering servant

**OVERVIEW:**

Mark is a unique book, in that it highlights miracles far more than teachings. He includes 18 miracles in these 16 chapters, with only four parables and one major discourse. Mark does not give any of Christ's ancestry, since the theme is that Christ is a servant, and people don't care about a servant's ancestry.

Mark himself was too young to be a disciple, but he was fascinated with Jesus so he hung around him as much as possible. He was also hyperactive. The word "immediately" is repeated 41x because he was always on the go from one place to the next. He couldn't sit still and wanted to be front and center in all of the action. That's why the book of Mark focuses so heavily on the actions of Jesus instead of his sermons.

**JOURNAL:**

What is the most important thing that God taught you through today's reading?

How can you apply that to your life?

Horizontal lines for journaling.





# DAY FOUR

**READ:** Luke 1-3

**AUTHOR:** Luke the physician

**DATE:** AD 58-60 or AD 60-62

**AUDIENCE:** A Roman official or judge named Theophilus

**THEME:** Christ is the Savior for the Gentiles, too

## OVERVIEW:

When studying the four Gospels, the most important thing that you can do is look at the stories through the eyes of the writer. In this case, Luke is writing to a Roman judge on behalf of his buddy Paul. Therefore, the content is much more focused on how Jesus interacted with Gentiles, Romans, and women...all of which hit home for Jesus.

Luke is a very unique book in the sense that it has many stories that the other authors did not have because they weren't able to interview the right people. Remember, this is being used as a

court document and Luke was not present during the ministry of Jesus so he had to get information from all of the eyewitnesses that he could, in order to piece together the proper angle for Paul's pending release. That's why the feel of this book seems a little different compared to the other Gospels.

Luke, being a doctor, approached Jesus from the perspective of the Son of Man, which is why he dated Jesus' genealogy all the way back to the first man, Adam, through the line of Mary.

## JOURNAL:

What is the most important thing that God taught you through today's reading?

How can you apply that to your life?

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