

H O S A N N A R E V I V A L

Bible Tool Kit



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So Glad

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If I were sitting next to you right now as you think about reading your Bible, I would want you to know a few things. First, I would tell you that I am overjoyed that you would even consider reading the words in this precious book, because truly, it is sacred. The Bible is the tangible Word of God—the God who created the universe, sees all things, and knows your name. I would tell you that the Bible is the complete and true story of our being and purpose. When you crack this book open, you will find stories full of triumphs, wilderness, waiting, and ultimately, a Savior who came in the name of love. As you hold a copy of the Bible in your hands, I pray that you can feel that love radiating out of its pages. Please know the words inside this book and the simple act of reading them will change your life.

“You will seek me and find me if you seek me with all your heart”- Jeremiah 29:13

The echoes of God’s glory will reach the ends of the earth because of the work He is doing in you.

Katie Guibiano



why

By reading your Bible and the stories of God, you will discover who God is. You will hear stories of His greatness and His might. You will discover that God is deeply intentional and specific with every part of this world. You will learn that His love for you burns brighter than any you've seen or felt before. You will see clearly that He has a call on your life, and a plan for this earth that ends in a beautiful victory. As you read your Bible and start to believe that God is who He says He is, you will begin to put your trust in Him in ways you never thought you could—strengthening your faith day by day.

Many have a strong moral compass—a direction of right and wrong in their lives. We strive to be “good”, it’s in our nature. The words in this book will guide you and equip you for every good work—showing you the ways of Jesus, and leading you to live a life that honors, loves and spreads His kingdom. In that same thread, this book will challenge you, gently revealing to you ways you are walking that lead you away from God and His plan for you.

There is power in Scripture. When we can recall these words when the storm is raging, God will quiet our minds. Speaking the words of God over every situation helps you lock eyes with God, and drown out the noise and lies that surround you. Reading God’s Word daily truly sets our mind on things above, and prepares us to face anything that the world throws our way. In the midst of your busy and draining life, choosing to make time to include God’s Word is a beautiful step of obedience that will lead you to places of growth, healing, and *abundant hope*.

where

Reading your Bible is a spiritual discipline that takes work. This book is big, long and unlike anything you've read before. Thankfully, you can start anywhere and start small. One sentence of God's Word read over your life has more power than any self help book or motivational quote.

We made a Bible Guide (see pages 4 & 5)! When you are deciding which book to read, this guide will help you see where that story falls in the big picture of the Bible. The Bible is broken into two big sections, the Old Testament (before Jesus' ministry on Earth) and the New Testament (from Jesus' life on Earth, and beyond). Within these two sections, you will find 66 "books" of the Bible. Each book is then broken into chapters, and individual "verses".

Bible reading typically happens in one of two ways:

1. Choose a book of the Bible and read through it chronologically. It is helpful to find study questions or commentary as you take this bare-bones approach.
2. Follow along with a Bible study that points out different Scriptures for you to read each day. Bible studies typically include commentary and references that relate to a specific topic or guide you through a book.

Both ways of reading the Bible are helpful, and we suggest you try both! When you're choosing where in the Bible to begin, rely on recommendations from friends, or a simple Google search. You could ask, "what book of the Bible is good to read to understand God as a loving Father" or "Bible studies about anxiety". To get you started, you will find questions intended to lead you through the book of John at the end of this study.



T I M E W I T H G O D

YOUR TIME WITH GOD: making it intentional, purposeful and holy

Our hope is that your time with God is not only a time to study and learn the Bible and His Word, but also a time to love and adore God and His character - to sit, rest, learn His ways and His true character. To know and to love someone takes time, practice and consistency. We hope these helpful tips can help you step into the unforced rhythms of grace and draw you closer to the Lord's heart:

Important: Always begin with *prayer*. When you open the Bible, ask God to teach you exactly what you need through His Word. Ask Him to calm your mind, and give you focus and attention to hear what He has to say. Pray that your time reading the Word would spark even more wonder in your heart.

MAKE YOUR TIME WITH GOD INTENTIONAL

Here are some of our favorite ways to make our time with God intentional:

- Put your phone on airplane mode to eliminate distractions from notifications, social media, phone calls, etc.
- If you are working with a specific amount of time, set a timer for yourself to know when it's time to go. (alarms still work even on airplane mode!)
- Find a space that can become your consistent reading place. This space is typically a quiet place with the least amount of distractions.
- Don't get caught up with aesthetics. Our time with God does not have to be Instagram worthy. God's presence is everywhere.

SCHEDULE A TIME FOR IT

- Having a specific time helps build consistency into your daily rhythms. Include it in your calendar, whether it's in your planner, Google calendar or in your reminders. Take a step in personal accountability by writing it down to be reminded of it.
- Start your day with reading the Word if you can! We believe that the Word of God, the Bible, is our sustenance. These words and pages are filled to the brim with life and purpose. Starting your day by reading the Bible changes the trajectory of your day. However, know that there is so much grace when your morning doesn't go as planned or you run out of time! Any time spent with God is valuable and purposeful - He just wants you to come and be with Him.

HAVE A PLAN

- Having a plan to work through a specific book of the Bible encourages routine and consistency. Knowing exactly where you're headed before you begin helps build structure into your daily time with God.
- In this tool kit, we've included a study of the book of John. Our hope is that this guide will help you ask good questions and look at Scripture a little bit deeper.
- There are many resources and studies available that can help with this! Some of our favorites include Well Watered Women and She Reads Truth/He Reads Truth!



STUDY GUIDE

STUDY GUIDE:

A Look at the book of John

There are four books in the Bible that chronicle the earthly ministry of Jesus: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They are called “The Gospels”. The first three are called the “synoptic gospels” (which means “see-together”), because they present the life of Jesus in a very similar format. While they mostly describe the many events in the life of Jesus, John emphasizes the meaning of those events. The synoptic gospels focus on what Jesus taught and did, but John focuses more on who Jesus is.

- John shows us who Jesus is by highlighting seven miracles of Jesus (six of which are not mentioned in the other gospels).
- John shows us who Jesus is by allowing Jesus to speak for himself in the seven I Am statements of Jesus.
- John shows us who Jesus is by presenting other witnesses who also testify about the identity and deity of Jesus (that he is God). Four of these witnesses speak in the first chapter alone.

Each gospel account was written for a specific purpose and to specific people (and eventually, for us!). John makes clear in John 20:31 that the whole purpose of his writing is so that his readers will believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that by believing, they will have life in His name. As you read through this beloved book, some simple questions can really help you interpret and understand the Bible, and apply it to your everyday life.

Read over these questions before you read the Bible, and be looking for the answers in what you’re reading. After you read, it can be very helpful to come back to the questions, and see how you can answer them from what you read.

QUESTIONS FOR INTERPRETATION

1. What did I learn about God?

God is the main character of the Bible. He is always working, always moving, and always at the center. Sometimes He is not mentioned directly (like in the book of Esther), but every passage of Scripture reveals something about God and His character.

2. What did I learn about people?

Humans were created in the very image of God and are the pinnacle of His creation. See what Scripture says about our fallen condition—our sinful beliefs, attitudes, feelings, actions. Then consider what the text says about living as people who have been saved and redeemed from all of that through the work of Christ.

3. What did I learn about relating to God?

Loving God with everything we are can express itself in different ways. Look for reasons to praise God. Consider what sin you need to confess. Look for promises that God calls you to believe in Him.

4. What did I learn about relating to others?

When you became a follower of Jesus, you were adopted into His big, beautiful family. Does the passage say anything about interacting with others? Look for what the text teaches about pursuing reconciliation with others. Reflect on what the passage teaches about loving and caring for others.

STUDY GUIDE:

A Look at the book of John

QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION

1. What does God want me to understand?

God has given you the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16), but we are still sometimes tempted to think the way we did before we knew Jesus. Lasting transformation begins with changing the way you think—God calls it renewing your mind (Romans 12:1-2). Reflect on how the passages encourages you to think.

2. What does God want me to believe?

Don't read just to be filled with knowledge. Knowing what the Bible says is a wonderful thing, but don't miss the forest for the trees. Let God's Word deepen your trust in Him, and your belief in what He says.

3. What does God want me to desire?

We are called to desire God above all else (Psalms 42:1-2), but without His help, we still desire things that will pull our affections away from Him. Reflect on what the passage says or implies about cultivating Godly desires.

4. What does God want me to do?

As people who have been loved and accepted by God, we don't have to do anything to retain His approval or to gain His love. There is nothing we can do that will make God love us more or less. But spending time with God and in His Word will change you from the inside out. There are commands in Scripture, and things that children of God are called to, and the more time you spend with God, the more you will desire to be like Him and to obey Him.

Adapted from "Asking the Right Questions" by Matthew Harmon

30-DAY READING PLAN

with recommended reading

Day 1: John 1:1-28 (Genesis 1:1-5, Colossians 1:15-16)

Day 2: John 1:29-2:11 (Mark 1:4-11)

Day 3: John 2:11-25 (Leviticus 19:30, Psalm 69:9)

Day 4: John 3:1-21 (Romans 3:10-12)

Day 5: John 3:22-4:9 (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

Day 6: John 4:5-27 (Jeremiah 2:13, Ephesians 2:8-9)

Day 7: John 4:28-54

Day 8: John 5:1-46 (Philippians 2:9-11)

Day 9: John 6:1-15 (Psalm 23:1-3)

Day 10: John 6:16-35 (Psalm 23:4-6)

Day 11: John 6:35-71 (Romans 8:31-34)

Day 12: John 7:1-36 (Romans 8:6-8)

Day 13: John 7:37-8:1 (1 Corinthians 1:25-27)

Day 14: John 8:2-11 (Leviticus 20:10)

Day 15: John 8:12-58 (Romans 8:14, Galatians 3:26)

Day 16: John 9 (Romans 10:9,17)

Day 17: John 10:1-39 (Acts 2:22-23)

Day 18: John 10:40-11:44 (Romans 8:29-31)

Day 19: John 11:44-12:19 (Zechariah 9:9)

Day 20: John 12:20-43 (Isaiah 53)

Day 21: John 12:44-13:30 (Philippians 2:5-11)

Day 22: John 13:31-14:11 (James 1:2-4)

Day 23: John 14:12-31 (Romans 8:14-16)

Day 24: John 15:1-17 (Colossians 1:9-10)

Day 25: John 15:16-16:33 (Ephesians 1:3-6)

Day 26: John 17:1-18:9 (Hebrews 1:3, Colossians 2:6-8)

Day 27: John 18:7-19:5 (John 6:39, Romans 8:28)

Day 28: John 19:5-42 (Isaiah 53:7, 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Day 29: John 20 (Psalm 16:10, 1 Corinthians 1:18)

Day 30: John 21

COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY:

growing roots

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
- Hebrews 10:24-25*

We were never meant to do this alone! Find a friend to read the Bible and share life with. This step takes an ounce of courage! Be brave and ask someone to connect you with someone to read with - maybe it's the person who gave you this Bible or someone from your local church. Either way, be brave and simply *ask*. Some other examples include friends, family members or parents, mentors, and or coaches. There is someone SO excited to read the Bible with you and share life with you!

Our ultimate hope is that you get connected in a gospel-centered church. As believers, we are stepping into something so much bigger than ourselves. Church is a holy, sacred space, safe for learning and growing. Being involved in a church means becoming a part of the body of Christ, to serve and love those around you and to cultivate a community that glorifies God.

As mentioned above, we aren't meant to live this life alone. Community is extremely vital in our walks with God and time spent in the Word. Where we find our community is where we find our rest and roots. Having a consistent friend or community group is strongly encouraged. Take that first step of courage and show up to that Bible study or community group you've been considering joining or simply ask a friend to meet with you weekly. We are meant for more than loneliness!



RESOURCES

There are so many more resources and tools out there that are helpful for reading your Bible and navigating what it means to live a life with Jesus. Here are some of our favorites:

- Well Watered Women
- She Reads Truth and He Reads Truth
- The Bible Project
- The Gospel Project
- The Psalm Project
- Dwell App
- Hosanna Revival Spotify



Old Testament

The story of the Bible begins with God, then His Creation. God, man, and all the animals lived together in perfect harmony and peace. But when Adam and Eve sinned, it all came crashing down. The perfect harmony with God was destroyed and the earth was cursed. The story of Israel is a fairly similar narrative. God saves Abraham's descendants from Egyptian slavery and exile and leads them into a lush, green land He promised to Abraham hundreds of years earlier. But just like Adam, the children of Israel rebelled against God and were exiled from the Promised Land. The Old Testament ends with the children of Israel—Abraham's descendants—returning to the Promised Land, but it is no longer the paradise it once was. They are still in exile under foreign rule. There is conflict and pain, and the weight of the curse still remained.

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Pentateuch (Books of the Law): Genesis—Deuteronomy

The first five books of the Bible are often called the “Pentateuch,” which simply means “five books”. They detail the history of Creation, the Fall, God’s covenantal dealings with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who are the patriarchs of God’s chosen people, the Israelites. About 400 years after God’s covenant with Abraham, all of Israel was enslaved in Egypt. Exodus details how God used Moses and incredible miracles to free his people. After being led out of captivity, God establishes His covenant with Israel through the giving of the 10 commandments and the law. The Law is recorded in Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

Genesis

The history of Creation, the Fall, and God’s covenants with the patriarchs of Israel

Exodus

The history of Israel’s liberation from captivity and formation as a nation of God’s people

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel

Historical Books: Joshua—Esther

Though God wanted to lead His people into the land he had promised Abraham centuries before, they rebelled against the law He had given them, and broke their end of the covenant. This began a 40-year period of wandering in the desert before finally entering the Promised Land. After Moses died, Joshua led a new generation of Israelites into the Promised Land. They conquered the land of Canaan and became an established nation.

But it didn’t take long before they began a terrible cycle of abandoning God and His covenant with them, falling captive to enemy nations and calling on God to rescue them. God saved His people time and time again, sending men and women to “judge” them. Not kings, but people who provided Godly council and delivered God’s people from their captors.

But it wasn’t enough for Israel—they wanted a king, like all the other nations around them. So God appointed Saul to be the first king of Israel, who was followed by King David and all the rest of Israel’s kings. After the reign of David’s son, Solomon, the nation split into two kingdoms and the temple of God in Jerusalem was destroyed.

Joshua

Israel’s military conquest of the Promised Land

1 Samuel + 2 Samuel

Israel’s growing and emerging monarchy under Saul and David

1 Kings + 2 Kings

Solomon and the divided kingdoms and the fall and captivity of Israel

Nehemiah

Israel’s return from exile and the rebuilding of Jerusalem

1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Poetry/Wisdom Literature: Job—Song of Solomon

Some of the best-known portions of Scripture are from its poetry, which is often called the “Wisdom Literature”. These writings include chapters of historical writings, praises, lament, prayers, dirges, and songs written by many people, including King David and his son, King Solomon.

Ecclesiastes, Psalms + Proverbs

Wisdom literature and Hebrew poetry

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Prophets: Isaiah-Malachi

Much of the Old Testament is comprised of writings by prophets who were sent by God to warn and decree judgment on the nation of Israel for their sin and abandonment of God. God used these prophets to lead His people away from sin and back to Himself.

Jeremiah

An example of a major prophet

Amos + Hosea

Examples of the minor prophets

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah

Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

New Testament

After 400 years of silence, Israel is still in exile under the Romans. They are eagerly awaiting the promised Messiah, foretold by prophets of old. They longed for Him, believing that when He came He would set all things right—and He would. But not the way they thought He would. Jesus did not overthrow the government and become their king. Instead, He had come for a much greater purpose—to remedy the curse of sin. Jesus came to live a perfect life and die in the place of sinners, reconciling them back to God—bringing us back to the garden paradise where we can once again have perfect harmony and peace with God. The New Testament ends with the promise of a future in a new heaven and a new earth. No more sin, no more curse, no more sickness, no more death. God will make all things new.

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Revelation

The Gospels & Acts: Matthew—Acts

For 400 years, the Bible falls silent. This is the gap between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The New Testament then begins with the gospels; the accounts of the life and earthly ministry of Jesus. The world is a very different place; Israel is now under oppression by the Roman government. When Jesus arrives on the scene, some think He will be a hero that will overthrow the government and become their king. But instead, Jesus comes as the fulfillment of God's covenant with His people. In these four gospels, Jesus' life, earthly ministry, death, resurrection and ascension are detailed. The gospels also record the commission Jesus gave to those who follow him: preach the gospel to every corner of the earth!

Acts tells the story of the birth of the first century Church. They were empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the gospel, and it spread like wildfire. In Acts, we are introduced to Paul and his conversion to Christianity. Paul was a missionary and church planter who was hugely influential in the spread of the gospel and he wrote most of the books in the New Testament.

The Gospels

The life and earthly ministry of Jesus. The first 4 books of the New Testament

Acts

The history of the early Christian church

Letters & Revelation: Romans—Revelation

The rest of the New Testament is a collection of letters, usually called “epistles”. Most of them were written by Paul to different churches that he had established as he traveled around, preaching the gospel. Much of what we believe as Christians—our doctrine—is taught to us in Paul's letters. Paul often corrected errors in the church, whether immoral behavior or false teachings. He carefully guarded the message of the gospel, vehemently teaching that the way to salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, so that God alone would receive the glory. We are not saved by the works of the flesh, obeying the Old Testament law, but only through faith in Jesus. Paul's writings are rich with theology—how to rightly think about God, His Word, who Jesus Christ is and what He has done, how we obtain salvation, and how we ought to live as God's children.

Paul also wrote letters to young pastors who took over the churches he planted, often called “the pastoral epistles”. In these letters, Paul instructs how churches are to be structured, how they are to be led, and how we ought to preach the Word of God.

The very last book in the Bible is Revelation. God gave John visions as he wrote to churches, giving them hope, encouraging them to stand firm, and correcting wrong beliefs and behaviors. Revelation is a fascinating yet puzzling book, and many Christians have different beliefs as to how it should be understood and interpreted. Regardless of how you view the book, the main theme is clear: Jesus will come again, in power and glory and God's glorious plan of redemption will be fully realized and evil will be banished forever.

Romans

Paul's teachings of Christian theology

1 Corinthians + 2 Corinthians

Life in the early church

Ephesians + 1 Timothy

An introduction to the teachings of Paul and his pastoral letters

Hebrews

Christology (theology of Christ)