

**HOW TO
READ THE
BIBLE FOR
YOURSELF
—**

KATHRYN ENTREKIN

Welcome

Welcome to How to Read the Bible for Yourself. The heart of this seminar is equipping you to confidently approach God's word and helping you grow in your ability to dig for the answers to: What is it saying? What does that mean? and How do I apply it to my life?

Over the three sessions of this seminar, I hope to convince you that your personal time in God's word, just you, your Bible, and the Holy Spirit, is absolutely worth the effort. Be an eager, humble, curious student of God's word and watch him change your heart and your life.

Kathryn

PS-You can find recordings of all sessions and more resources at the link below.



KathrynEntrekin.com/ForYourself

Week 1: How to Read the Bible for Yourself

Tools in Your Toolbox

- **Prayer**
- **Patience**
- **Repetitive reading:** read it over and over again, praying for fresh eyes each time
- **Consistency & discipline**
- **Curiosity**
- **Perspective**
 - The Bible is a book about God
 - All scripture is God-breathed
- **Process**

Week 1: How to Read the Bible for Yourself

Step 1: What does it say?

Pray, then look for:

1. **Commands**: tells you what to do (look for verbs)
2. **Truths**: statement that is always true
3. **Promises**: God saying, "I will..."
4. **Ideas**: main ideas, big Bible words, weird phrases
5. **Connected Ideas**: How are these ideas connected?

Other things you are looking for:

- Transitions (Example: "therefore")
- Repeated words & phrases
- Look up words you don't know or couldn't come up with a good definition for
- What was surprising or interesting?
- Howard Hendricks: "No detail is insignificant"
- Give a summary of the passage

The biblical genre (See Appendix A) may help you know what to look for first:

- **Torah**: combination
- **Historical narrative**: plot and events, setting, characters (actions & conversations), narration
- **Wisdom literature**: poetry, imagery, symbolism, contrasts, passage "bookends"
- **Prophecy**: combination
- **The Gospels**: combination
- **Epistles**: arguments & points made (list and number them), commands, truths, promises

James 1:1-11 (CSB)

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ:
To the twelve tribes dispersed abroad. Greetings.

- • • • •
- **Looking For:** •
- 1. Commands •
- 2. Truths •
- 3. Promises •
- 4. Ideas •
- • • • •
- **Cross** •
- **References** **U** •
- 1. Joy: Gal. •
- 5:22-23 •
- 2. Endurance: •
- Rom. 5:3-5 •
- 3. Mature: •
- Mat. 5:48 •
- 4. Wisdom/sta •
- bility: •
- Matt. •
- 7:24-27 •
- 5. Asking for •
- wisdom: 1 •
- Kings 3:5- •
- 15 •
- 6. Faith: •
- Hebrews •
- 11:1 •
- 7. Doubt: •
- Matthew •
- 21:21 •
- 8. Rich/poor: •
- Matthew •
- 6:24; Mark •
- 10:17-22 •
- James 2:2- •
- 4 •
- 9. Wither •
- away: •
- Psalm •
- 39:5; •
- Psalm •
- 62:9; 1 •
- Peter •
- 1:24-25 •

2 Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

5 Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord, 8 being double-minded and unstable in all his ways.

9 Let the brother of humble circumstances boast in his exaltation, 10 but let the rich boast in his humiliation because he will pass away like a flower of the field. 11 For the sun rises and, together with the scorching wind, dries up the grass; its flower falls off, and its beautiful appearance perishes. In the same way, the rich person will wither away while pursuing his activities.

James 1:12-18 (CSB)

¹² Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

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- **Looking For:** •••••
- 1. Commands •••••
- 2. Truths •••••
- 3. Promises •••••
- 4. Ideas •••••
- 5. Connections •••••
-

¹³ No one undergoing a trial should say, "I am being tempted by God," since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn't tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. ¹⁵ Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ By his own choice, he gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Week 2: How to Read the Bible for Yourself

Step 2: What does it mean?

Pray, then answer:

What do I learn about God?

- Names of God used
- Character traits named or demonstrated

What do I learn about people?

- Behavior patterns
- Differences between different groups of people

What doctrines do I understand better?

- Sin
- Salvation
- People of God/the church
- Grace
- Suffering & trials
- Sanctification
- Plenty more!

Step 2: What does it mean?

Review your James 1 passages from Step 1. Re-read them at least once for each question below. Pray, then answer:

What do I learn about God?

What do I learn about people?

What doctrines do I understand better?

- Suffering & trials:

- Sanctification:

- Sin:

Week 3: How to Read the Bible for Yourself

1. Observe: What does it say?

Pray, then look for:

1. _____: tells you what to do (look for verbs)
2. _____: statement that is always true
3. _____: God saying, "I will..."
4. _____: main ideas, big Bible words, weird phrases
5. _____: How are these ideas connected?

2. Interpret: What does that mean?

Pray, then answer:

1. What do I learn about _____?
2. What do I learn about _____?
3. Does this help me understand a key _____ better?

(Example: salvation, the work of the Holy Spirit, grace, etc.)

3. Apply: How do I respond?

Pick a verse that stood out to you, then ask:

1. How can I _____ about this?
2. How does this verse cause me to _____ God?
3. _____ change:
 - a. Is there a _____ or _____ I need to trust/believe in?
 - b. Is there an attitude or thought process that needs to change?
4. _____ change:
 - a. How should my altered view of God change how I act?
 - b. Is there a _____ I need to follow?
 - c. Is there a life habit I need to change?

Step 3: How do I respond?

Pick a verse from James 1:1-18 that stands out to you and write it out below:

1. Pray: Write out a prayer response to the verse you selected.

2. Worship: Write out a prayer of praise, adoration, or thanks in response to the verse you selected.

3. Heart change: Write out a statement addressing any truths you need to believe or attitudes or thought processes that need to change in response to the verse you selected (make it SMART, if possible).

4. Behavior change: Write a SMART action statement responding to your verse if there is a behavior/habit you need to change or a command you need to follow.

Appendix A: Bible Genres

How Our Bible is Organized

Torah (The Law)

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Historical Narrative

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1st Samuel
2nd Samuel
1st Kings
2nd Kings
1st Chronicles
2nd Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Wisdom Literature

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Prophecy

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

The Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Historical Narrative

Acts

Epistles (Letters)

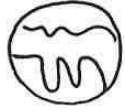
Romans
1st Corinthians
2nd Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1st Thessalonians
2nd Thessalonians
1st Timothy
2nd Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1st Peter
2nd Peter
1st John
2nd John
3rd John
Jude

Prophecy

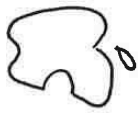
Revelation

Appendix B: Bible Covenants Map

BIBLE MAP



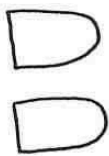
CREATION
Genesis 1



THE FALL
Genesis 3



ABE &
THE CALL
Genesis 12:1-3
Genesis 15



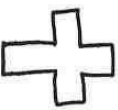
MOSES &
THE LAW
Exodus 19:1-9, 16-20
Exodus 20:1-21
Exodus 24:1-8



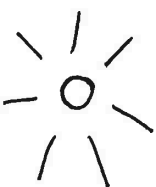
DAVID & THE
THRONE
2 Samuel 7



NEW COVENANT
PROMISED
Jeremiah 31:31-34



JESUS:
THE ANSWER
Isaiah 53
John 3:16



NEW COVENANT,
NEW LIFE
Hebrews 8
Acts 2:1-4
Romans 5:5
John 14:26
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Matthew 28:19

→ 3 promises (v.13)

- house: genealogy to Jesus
- kingdom: eternal
- throne: authority

→ promises

- Holy Spirit
- personal relationship with God
- eternal forgiveness for sin

→ Jesus is:

- blood for the new covenant
- the eternal king
- fulfillment for the law by grace through his death & rising

- 3 promises
- land
- seed (son, nation)
- blessing
- blood to seal it

- obedience → blessings
- disobedience → curses
- blood to seal it

Appendix C: Bible Translations

Bible Translation Guide

Interlinear	AMP	ESV	NKJV	NRSVue	CSB	NIV	ICB	NLT	GNT	MSG
NASB/LSB		RSV	KJV	NRSV	NAB	NET		NIV		LIVING
WORD-FOR-WORD					THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT					

More Information Here:
Bible Gateway's Complete
Guide to Bible Versions



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