

How to Apply the Bible to Your Life



“Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.” Joshua 1:8 NLT

- Have you ever read through the New or Old Testament?
- Do you long to take big steps forward in your spiritual growth?

God wants us to **grow spiritually**. He wants to transform our hearts and lives. He wants us to be like His Son, Jesus Christ (see Rom. 8:29; Gal. 4:19; Phil. 2:5).

Bible reading is one of His major tools for accomplishing spiritual transformation. It can cause us to be more loving, more hopeful in trouble, less self-centered, more devoted to our marriages and families, more motivated to do our best at our jobs, more resistant to temptation, hungrier for God, wiser in our choices and decisions, more passionate to live for Christ and more focused to reach a lost world. (Read Psalm 119:9-11, 28, 36-37, 52, 98-100, 104, 105, 130, 133, 165). *Are you ready to start a life-changing adventure with God by reading the Bible for the next 52 weeks?*

The Central Lesson:

God can transform our lives one day at a time by spending 52 weeks reading through the New or Old Testament.

Three Goals of Bible Study

1. **Observation**—What does it say?
2. **Interpretation**—What does it mean?
3. **Application**—How does it relate to my life?

How to Study the New or Old Testament.

1. **Use an Understandable Bible TRANSLATION.** Many people struggle to understand the Bible because they are reading an old English translation. Several modern translations are available today. Most people find these much more enjoyable and easier to understand. Some recommended translations are **NLT** = The New Living Translation, the fastest-selling and easiest-to-understand translation worldwide. Also, there is the **NIV** = New International Version, **NASB** = the New American Standard Translation, **ESV** = English Standard Version.
2. **Set a TIME and PLACE** - to get alone with God for Bible reading and prayer regularly. You can allow 15 minutes or whatever time your schedule allows.
3. **Read according to the suggested reading schedule:** (see the NBF website or literature table)
 - **ONE** chapter a day for **5** days a week for the NT;
 - **THREE** chapters a day for **6** days a week for the OT.

4. **UNDERLINE meaningful verses with colored pencils.** Ink pens bleed through the pages of the Bible - colored pencils will not.
5. **APPLY the Bible to Your life.** As you read, ask yourself the following questions for meaningful application:

Ten Questions for Meaningful Life Application of the Bible

1. **Attitudes** to Adopt—*What attitudes should I adopt from this passage?*
2. **Attributes** of God to Adore—(Maybe just the Father, Son, or the Holy Spirit)—*What attributes of God am I to adore in this passage?*
3. **Commands** to Obey—*What command am I to obey in this passage?*
4. **Examples** to Emulate—*What examples in this passage should I follow?*
5. **Identity** to Identify—*What identity do I have because I am a Christian?*
6. **Principles** to Practice—*What principles, general rules, or guidelines are in this passage that I should practice?*
7. **Promises** to Possess (or Claim)—*What promises has God made to me in this passage that I should claim?*
8. **Sins** to Avoid or Confess—*What sin do I see in this passage that I should avoid or confess and ask God's forgiveness?*
9. **Truths** to Treasure—*What truth or teaching in this passage should I treasure?*
10. **Warnings** to Watch—*What warning in this passage should I watch or heed?*

NOTE: If you have difficulty recognizing these ten application areas while you read, give priority to just looking for one or two application areas, for example - **commands** to obey and **promises** to claim.

6. **Spend a brief time in PRAYER.** For example, **Thank** God for the truths He has revealed to you as you read, thank Him for the ways He has blessed you, **confess** your sins, and pray for your **requests** and **needs**.

****Question:** *Are you just reading the Bible or are you applying it to your life?*

Conclusion

God can transform our lives one day at a time by spending 52 weeks reading through the New or Old Testament.

Action Steps: ► Receive Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's Bible study. ► Attend a small group. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus. ► Memorize Joshua 1:8.