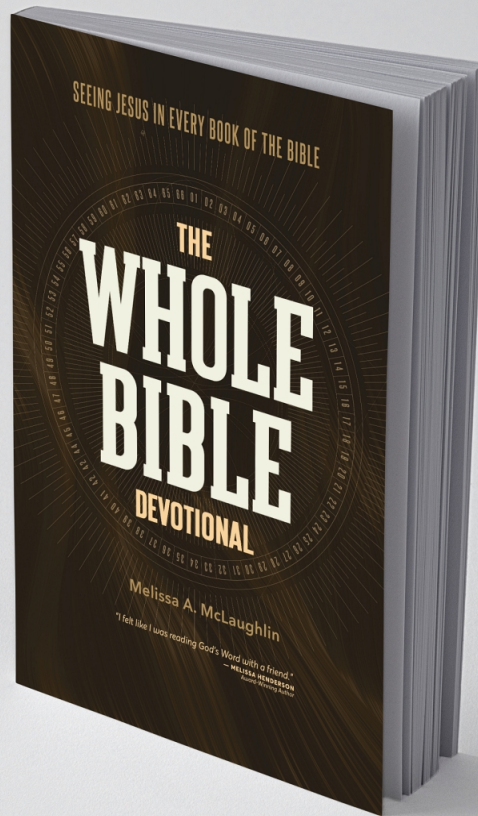


# ***The Whole Bible Devotional • Small Group Study Guide*** **(12-Week Version)**



by  
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# *The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide

## Introduction

I looked up. The trail's rocky incline towered. A giant staircase of car-sized boulders lay before me. No human legs could stretch from one boulder to the next. Attempting upward progress involved hugging rocks and clinging to small footholds.

The climb felt impossible.

Have you ever tackled an obstacle you felt was difficult? Maybe even beyond your reach?

When we look back over our lives, most of us can recall daunting or dangerous experiences. Sometimes we succeeded. Sometimes we failed.

Often, we learn more from our failures than our successes. One example from my life was reading through the Bible from beginning to end.

Around age sixteen, I set out to read the Bible cover to cover.

There were days I didn't find (or make) the time. However, I picked up where I left off the next day and kept trudging through. After persevering a little over a year, I achieved my goal. I read through the whole Bible!

I did not understand everything I read. I stuttered over big words the best I could and continued reading. Although I could not comprehend every detail, my general knowledge of the Bible improved. More importantly, my connection with Jesus grew stronger.

Fast forward to my years as a mom. When my kids reached their teen years, I wanted to help them read through the Bible as I did at their age. I suggested a Bible reading plan, and the kids' eyes sparkled. The challenge moved our hearts, and we plunged in.

Sadly, after a few starts and stops, we sputtered, faltered, and eventually gave up.

Disappointment wrapped around me like a cold blanket. I felt like I had failed my kids, myself, and my God.

However, God had more in store for me. *The Whole Bible Devotional* sprang from that failure.

My goal in writing *The Whole Bible Devotional* is to provide readers in today's fast-paced life with a greater understanding of the whole Bible in an accessible way. Further, many people have read the Bible from beginning to end, but still don't understand how the books fit together.

Therefore, *The Whole Bible Devotional* offers three components to help readers understand the Bible as a whole:

- A non-academic overview of the Bible to give readers a bird's-eye-view of the Bible's overarching theme—Jesus.
- Excerpts from every book of the Bible so readers can encounter important elements of God's Word from beginning to end.
- Scripture-based prayers to help readers connect with God personally while reading the Bible.

This *Small Group Study Guide* complements *The Whole Bible Devotional* and equips small group leaders to use the book with church groups, home groups, Sunday School classes, online groups, or to enhance personal study.

Discussions with others are key. When we share our thoughts and experiences with others, the text comes alive and our understanding expands. This *Small Group Study Guide* will help you and your small group maximize and apply the concepts in *The Whole Bible Devotional*.

Have you ever wanted to understand the Bible as a whole? Want to help others understand the Bible better or see how Jesus is the overarching theme throughout?

I am excited for you to discover how God can use *The Whole Bible Devotional* and the companion *Small Group Study Guide* to deepen your group's spiritual life. *The Whole Bible Devotional* and *Study Guide* will enrich your understanding of Christ and His Word. And ultimately, draw you ever closer to our Savior!

## 12-Week Session Outline

*The Whole Bible Devotional* is best read daily. Reading the three introductory chapters the first week, followed by one reading from each of the 66 books of the Bible (with one day a week for catch-up and/or the group session), makes for a 12-week study series.

Beginning with a simple Bible overview, *The Whole Bible Devotional* lays a foundation for the whole biblical narrative, followed by 66 daily Scripture readings and prayers.

The following is a sample 12-week reading plan and discussion outline for small groups. Small group leaders can adjust this timeline to suit their purposes.

Small group leaders should ask participants to complete the daily readings for each week individually before the meeting. This will allow participants to understand and discuss the questions thoughtfully when gathering as a group.

Please note—this Small Group Study Guide's design allows flexibility to meet your group's needs. Most small groups will not have time to answer every question. So, select the questions most meaningful or applicable to your group. Leaders can encourage participants to reflect individually on questions not discussed as a group.

In addition, if you or your group have a favorite verse or story from a particular book of the Bible, please feel free to read and discuss that instead of the provided Scripture and discussion questions.

May God use *The Whole Bible Devotional* and *Small Group Study Guide* to inspire your hunger for God and His Word. May the Holy Spirit lead you and your group to delight in God's Word as you seek to know and love Jesus more!

# ***The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide**

## **Week 1**

### **Seven Daily Readings (completed individually before the group meeting):**

1. Start reading chapter 1
2. Finish reading chapter 1
3. Start reading chapter 2
4. Finish reading chapter 2
5. Start reading chapter 3
6. Finish reading chapter 3
7. Catch up on your reading, and/or attend group meeting

### **Week 1 Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

#### **Chapter 1:**

- A. Have you ever read through the whole Bible? If so, what did you learn? If not, have you ever wanted to?
- B. Have you ever read through the entire Bible, but couldn't put the pieces together at the end? If so, what parts of the Bible made sense, and what parts didn't seem to fit?
- C. What are your current Bible reading habits? How would you like to grow or improve?
- D. What do you hope to gain from this small group study of *The Whole Bible Devotional*?

#### **Chapter 2:**

- A. Have you ever stood atop a mountain or high point and looked out over the land below? How does that vantage point change your perspective?
- B. How does a Bible overview help us grasp the overarching theme through the individual books?
- C. Which books of the Bible do you find hardest to read? Which books are easier to understand?
- D. What parts do you know well?

#### **Chapter 3:**

- A. How is Jesus the main message of the Bible from beginning to end?
- B. Did the Bible overview clarify any parts of the Bible that were unclear to you in the past?
- C. Which part of God's redemption plan through Christ touched your heart or surprised you?
- D. How can Bible reading help you know and love Jesus more?

# ***The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide**

## **Week 2**

### **Seven Daily Readings (completed individually before the group meeting):**

1. Read Day 1 – Genesis
2. Read Day 2 – Exodus
3. Read Day 3 – Leviticus
4. Read Day 4 – Numbers
5. Read Day 5 – Deuteronomy
6. Read Day 6 – Joshua
7. Catch up on your reading, and/or attend group meeting

### **Week 2 Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

#### **Day 1 – Genesis:**

- A. How can we hold the tension of both truths: God is the holy Creator of the universe (Gen. 1:1), and yet He invites us to draw near and call Him Father (2 Corinthians 6:18)?
- B. Why is it important to believe God's word is true? How do we know God is good (John 3:16)?
- C. How are we like Adam and Eve? How are we different from them?
- D. How does Satan deceive (Genesis 3:1–7) both long ago and today? Why does Satan tempt us to question God's word and character?
- E. How was God's redemption plan through Christ set into motion in Genesis 3:14–15?

#### **Day 2 – Exodus**

- A. What is the Passover (Exodus 12:21–30)? How did the Passover lamb foreshadow Christ?
- B. How did God rescue His people from slavery (Exodus 14:5–31)?
- C. How has God rescued you throughout your life?
- D. What do the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20:1–17) reveal about God's character?
- E. What do the 10 Commandments show us about ourselves?

### **Day 3 – Leviticus**

- A. How does our sin separate us from our holy God? Why did God require animal sacrifices to atone for sin (Leviticus 4:35)?
- B. How do these sacrifices point toward Christ's sacrifice?
- C. How are these sacrifices different from Jesus' sacrifice?
- D. When God said, "Be holy, for I am holy (Leviticus 11:44)," what does this mean?
- E. Why do we need to be near God?

### **Day 4 – Numbers**

- A. How did the Israelites experience God's presence (Numbers 9:15–23)?
- B. How can we experience God's presence today?
- C. How can we hear from the Lord and follow His leading?
- D. What does the account of Aaron's rod (Numbers 17:5–11) reveal about God?
- E. How should that impact our faith and our relationship with God?

### **Day 5 – Deuteronomy**

- A. In the New Testament, Jesus quoted the passage we read in Deuteronomy 6:1–9 and taught that loving the Lord your God was the greatest commandment (Mark 12:28–31). Why is loving the Lord the greatest commandment?
- B. What are God's blessings when we follow His commandments?
- C. What does it mean to be people holy to the Lord and His treasured possession (Deut. 7:6)?
- D. How did God demonstrate His love to the Israelites? How has He demonstrated His love for you?
- E. Why must heaven be holy, good, and pure—devoid of all evil? Why is Jesus our only hope for heaven?

### **Day 6 – Joshua**

- A. After Moses died, God appointed Joshua to lead the Israelites into the promised land (Joshua 1:1). From our reading of Joshua 1:6–9, how does God encourage and command Joshua as the new leader?
- B. In what places are you a leader? (Home, family, church, neighborhood, school, work, online, the community, etc.) How can God's words to Joshua strengthen us today?
- C. What does God instruct Joshua to meditate on day and night? How does this apply to us today?
- D. At the end of Joshua's life, he looked back and noted God's faithfulness. How was God faithful to the Israelites?
- E. How has God been faithful in your life?

# ***The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide**

## **Week 3**

### **Seven Daily Readings (completed individually before the group meeting):**

1. Read Day 7 – Judges
2. Read Day 8 – Ruth
3. Read Day 9 – 1 Samuel
4. Read Day 10 – 2 Samuel
5. Read Day 11 – 1 Kings
6. Read Day 12 – 2 Kings
7. Catch up on your reading, and/or attend group meeting

### **Week 3 Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

#### **Day 7 – Judges**

- A. In the book of Judges, the people abandoned the Lord (Judges 2:11). What led them astray? What can cause us to turn away from the Lord?
- B. Why did God appoint judges (Judges 2:16)? How did the people respond to God's chosen leaders?
- C. How would you describe Deborah's leadership (Judges 4:4–10)?
- D. Judges 21:25 (ESV) is the last verse in this book: *"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."* How is this similar or different from our country (or world) today?
- E. Where do you get your standards to decide what is right or wrong?

#### **Day 8 – Ruth**

- A. Based on our reading from Ruth 1:3–9, how were Naomi and Ruth related? What events led them to Bethlehem?
- B. In Ruth 4:13–17, how did Boaz redeem and restore the lives of Ruth, Naomi, and their descendants?
- C. Ruth was not an Israelite, but a Moabite. What does this reveal about God's redemption plan for His kingdom?
- D. How does this Bible story remind you of Christ and His bride, the church?
- E. Have you ever followed the Lord's leading to an unexpected place or to complete an unexpected task? What did you learn? How did you grow?

## **Day 9 – 1 Samuel**

- A. When the Lord told the prophet Samuel to anoint the next king of Israel, the Lord rejected David's brothers but chose David instead (1 Samuel 16:1–7), because man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. How is it a comfort to know the Lord looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance? How might this also cause discomfort?
- B. What does God see in your heart?
- C. Based on our reading, when David stood before the Philistine, a giant named Goliath (1 Samuel 17:4), what weapons did he and Goliath possess? How did David's victory display God's power?
- D. What was the source of David's confidence? Can you remember a time when God delivered you from a "giant?"
- E. How did David verbalize his great faith in God? How does it strengthen you when you hear someone openly express their faith in God?

## **Day 10 – 2 Samuel**

- A. Although God appointed David king of Israel, the previous king, Saul, gathered his men and tried to kill David (1 Samuel 19:1). Fortunately, God protected David. From our reading in 2 Samuel 22:1–4, how did David communicate with God about this persecution?
- B. How did David's trials impact his relationship with God?
- C. How have trials in your life affected your relationship with God?
- D. David faced earthly enemies who tried to take his life. What spiritual enemies do we face that are similar (John 10:10)?
- E. When you are facing difficulties, what helps you lean on Jesus as your rock?

## **Day 11 – 1 Kings**

- A. When Solomon became king of Israel, he asked God for wisdom (1 Kings 3:5–15). God gave Solomon wisdom to rule well, and Israel experienced great peace and rest from war (1 Kings 4:25). During this time, Solomon built a temple for the Lord, for the people to worship, honor, and draw near God (1 Kings 6:1). How can we respond like Solomon when God provides peace and rest?
- B. When have you experienced God's peace, rest, and presence?
- C. What helps you to worship the Lord, walk in His ways, and be wholly true to Him?
- D. When Elijah was the prophet, an evil king named Ahab was the ruler of Israel. Ahab set up a counterfeit altar and led the people to worship a false god named Baal. God showed His power over the false god, Baal, who could do nothing. God sent fire to consume the offering Elijah had placed on the altar. When the people saw God's power, they worshiped Him (1 Kings 18:16–29). Can you think of a time you witnessed God's power? How did you respond?
- E. What are some "false gods" people worship today by prioritizing them higher than God?

## **Day 12 – 2 Kings**

- A. When the prophet Elisha and his servant went out, the enemy's horses and chariots surrounded the city. From our reading in 2 Kings 6:15–17, what did Elisha see in the spiritual realm that differed from the earthly realm?
- B. Have you ever seen an angel?
- C. How does it affect your faith when you remember the Lord is the God of angel armies?
- D. When King Josiah ruled, the priest Hilkiah discovered God's Word in the temple of the Lord (2 Kings 22). From our reading, how did King Josiah respond when he learned about God's Word?
- E. The text stated King Josiah got rid of "mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols and all other detestable things," so he could follow the Lord with all his heart, soul, and strength. Where do you see mediums and spiritists accepted in our culture? What are things you and I could remove from our lives to follow the Lord more closely?

# ***The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide**

## **Week 4**

### **Seven Daily Readings (completed individually before the group meeting):**

1. Read Day 13 – 1 Chronicles
2. Read Day 14 – 2 Chronicles
3. Read Day 15 – Ezra
4. Read Day 16 – Nehemiah
5. Read Day 17 – Esther
6. Read Day 18 – Job
7. Catch up on your reading, and/or attend group meeting

### **Week 4 Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

#### **Day 13 – 1 Chronicles**

- A. When God first instructed Moses to build a Tabernacle (or tent of meeting), it was a movable tent for worship (Exod. 25:8, Exod. 26). When David became king of Israel, he wanted to build a permanent structure for God's temple, where His presence dwelt and the people could draw near Him. From our reading in 1 Chronicles 17:9–12, how did God respond to David's desire?
- B. How did Jesus fulfill God's prophecy spoken in the passage we read (Rev. 21:3)?
- C. How did the first Tabernacle (or tent of meeting) foreshadow the Holy Spirit residing in believers (1 Cor. 3:16)?
- D. How does the passage we read give us a glimpse of God's eternal kingdom?
- E. When have you felt closest to God?

#### **Day 14 – 2 Chronicles**

- A. From our reading in 2 Chronicles 7:11–16, who completed the construction of the temple, or house of the Lord?
- B. How did God communicate with Solomon about the temple's completion?
- C. What were the key points of God's message to Solomon?
- D. How can you invite God's Spirit to move in and take over more of your heart?
- E. God is all-seeing and ever-present. Are there places in your heart where you need God's healing, cleansing, transformation, or wisdom?

## Day 15 – Ezra

- A. Some 400 years after King Solomon built the first temple in Jerusalem,<sup>1</sup> the Babylonians destroyed it and took the Israelites captive (2 Chronicles 36:17–21). The Jewish captives returned to Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity in Babylon<sup>2</sup> and began building a second temple on the same site (Ezra 1:2–3). From our reading in Ezra 6:14–16, the Israelites celebrated the completion and dedication of the second temple. Why did this bring such joy?
- B. How might the Israelites have felt when the first temple was destroyed? How would a great downfall affect your faith in God?
- C. From our reading, who did God work through to rebuild the second temple and fulfill His Word? How is God's sovereignty displayed when world leaders fulfill His plans?
- D. How has God built up your faith through good times and tough times?
- E. What is one way you can rededicate yourself to God with joy today?

## Day 16 – Nehemiah

- A. Ezra and Nehemiah both wrote about reconstruction in Jerusalem. Ezra wrote about the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem (Ezra 3). Nehemiah wrote about rebuilding the broken walls that surround Jerusalem (Nehemiah 3). In the passage we read, Nehemiah prayed to God, before asking the Babylonian king's permission to return to Jerusalem to rebuild its walls. What stood out to you about this prayer?
- B. How would you describe Nehemiah's faith in God based on his prayer?
- C. What parts of Nehemiah's prayer would you like to remember and incorporate into your prayers?
- D. How can we return to the Lord if we have fallen away?
- E. When have you faced a terrible obstacle in life? Did you pray about it? If so, what was the outcome and what did you learn?

## Day 17 – Esther

- A. The Persian king had chosen Esther, a Jewish young woman, as his queen (Esther 2:17). Esther's cousin, Mordecai, discovered a plot to annihilate the Jewish people in the land (Esther 3:8–9). Mordecai asked Esther to plead for mercy from the king on behalf of their people (Esther 4:6–8). Esther resisted because anyone who approached the king without being summoned would be put to death (Esther 4:10–11). The passage we read from Esther 4:12–16, included Mordecai's and Esther's ensuing responses. Ultimately, the king spared the Jews, as Esther requested (Esther 7). From our reading, how did Mordecai's words compel Esther to go before the king?
- B. How did Esther display great courage?
- C. What was Esther's first action before approaching the king? What does this reveal about Esther?
- D. Have you ever fasted for something important? What was your experience?
- E. Have you ever stood up for Jesus or His followers when no one else could or would? How did that impact your faith?

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<sup>1</sup> Paul R. House and Eric Mitchell, *Old Testament Survey*, Second Edition (Nashville: B&H Academic, 2007), 170.

<sup>2</sup> House and Mitchell, 344.

## **Day 18 – Job**

- A. Job was blameless and followed God. Yet God allowed Satan to cause tragedies in Job's life (Job 1:1–12). Although Job maintained his faith, he questioned God. In the end, God spoke to Job, but God never explained why He allowed the tragedies (Job 38–41). Once Job heard from God, his questioning ceased (Job 42:1–6). When Job's animals, servants, and children died, how did he respond with great faith despite his tremendous sorrow?
- B. What prophetic words from our reading pointed ahead to Christ?
- C. When a believer dies, how does our faith in Jesus give us hope?
- D. How can God bring good out of our suffering?
- E. Have you gone through a painful loss where you questioned God? What did you learn or how did you grow?

# ***The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide**

## **Week 5**

### **Seven Daily Readings (completed individually before the group meeting):**

1. Read Day 19 – Psalms
2. Read Day 20 – Proverbs
3. Read Day 21 – Ecclesiastes
4. Read Day 22 – Song of Solomon
5. Read Day 23 – Isaiah
6. Read Day 24 – Jeremiah
7. Catch up on your reading, and/or attend group meeting

### **Week 5 Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

#### **Day 19 – Psalms**

- A. Our reading from Psalm 139 details God’s deep knowledge of us. God knows the **real you**. Does that bring you comfort, make you tremble, or both?
- B. What verses from Psalm 139 help you envision God watching over us like a father watches His children?
- C. God sees you—everywhere you go and everything you do. How should this strengthen our relationship with Him?
- D. How does Psalm 139 expand your view of God? How does it affect your view of yourself?
- E. Psalm 139 closes with a prayer inviting God to search, test, know, and see our innermost being and lead us in His way. Have you ever prayed that kind of prayer? Would you pause and pray that right now from the depths of your heart?

#### **Day 20 – Proverbs**

- A. Proverbs 3:5–7 instructs us to trust the Lord with all our hearts. In what areas of your life would you like to trust the Lord more? How is our trust in the Lord strengthened?
- B. When faced with an obstacle, have you ever trusted and submitted to God instead of following your own wisdom? What was the outcome? How did that impact your relationship with God?
- C. Proverbs 30:4–6 proclaims God’s glory, power, and perfection. What verses resonate with you, surprise you, or give you a sense of awe? How does this passage highlight Jesus?
- D. According to this passage, how should we esteem God’s Word, the Bible?
- E. How is this different from the culture and world’s viewpoint of God’s Word? What does this mean for us as believers?

## Day 21 – Ecclesiastes

- A. From our reading in Ecclesiastes, fearing God is recorded as a positive quality. In the Bible the fear of the Lord can sometimes denote a sense of terror. In other passages, the fear of the Lord describes awe, reverence, and worship. Moses fears God (in terror) after he commits murder because he recognizes his great sin (Exod. 2:14). However, in Deuteronomy 10:12–13, fearing the Lord is listed with: walking in God’s ways, loving, and obeying Him. In this second case, the fear of the Lord shows reverence as a proper response toward God.<sup>3</sup> For He alone is God. How is the fear of the Lord different from earthly fears or fear of people?
- B. We know God is good and loves us. He has proven His love through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. Why does God instruct us to fear Him?
- C. How does the fear of the Lord bring about our eternal good?
- D. Have you ever thought about what happens after we die? What does the Bible teach about life after death (Hebrews 9:27–28), (2 Corinthians 5:10), (2 Timothy 4:8), (Revelation 21:4)? How is this different from what the world thinks?
- E. God sent Jesus, so we can receive Him as Savior before we meet Him as Judge (Matthew 10:28). As believers in Jesus, our sins are paid in full (Ephesians 2:8–10). How does this knowledge bring comfort, peace, and hope when we imagine standing before the Lord?

## Day 22 – Song of Solomon

- A. The Song of Solomon is a love poem written in dialogue form between Solomon and his wife, the Shulamite woman. The book portrays God’s design for emotional, verbal, and physical love between a husband and wife in marriage. Some Bible scholars also interpret this book as an allegory of Christ’s love for His church.<sup>4</sup> From our reading in Song of Solomon 8:6, how is the love between a husband and wife described?
- B. Who is the source of love (1 John 4:7–8)?
- C. How is love different from lust?
- D. In Ephesians 5:25 we read, “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” How does Christ’s love for the church set an example for marital love?
- E. Do you know any married couples who display Christlike enduring love for each other? What can you learn from them?

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<sup>3</sup> William D. Mounce, et al., *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006), 244.

<sup>4</sup> Matthew Henry, *New Matthew Henry Commentary*, ed. Martin Manser (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010), 939.

### **Day 23 – Isaiah**

- A. In our reading from Isaiah 53:5–6, how does the Scripture foretell the Messiah as the solution for humanity’s sin?
- B. Which phrases do you find most moving?
- C. How does this passage help you visualize Jesus on the cross?
- D. Though we are the ones who have turned away, the Lord lays our iniquity on Jesus. How does this impact your love and gratitude for Jesus?
- E. As the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—why did God absorb into Himself the penalty for our sin?

### **Day 24 – Jeremiah**

- A. Jeremiah was a prophet during distressing times, as the Israelite kingdom collapses. Jeremiah warned the people of God’s coming judgment for their rebellion against Him (Jeremiah 16:10–13). Eventually, Babylon defeated the Israelites, destroyed their land, and took them captive (2 Kings 25). In our reading from Jeremiah 29:11–13, we see that even amid the ruins, God promises restoration. How do these verses give you hope in depressing situations?
- B. Because God is eternal, He is outside of time. He knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:9–10). How does that enlarge your view of God?
- C. How does Jesus give us hope and a future?
- D. What are God’s best plans for us?
- E. Have you ever felt depressed and hopeless? How can we see our future differently through the lens of Scripture?

# ***The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide**

## **Week 6**

### **Seven Daily Readings (completed individually before the group meeting):**

1. Read Day 25 – Lamentations
2. Read Day 26 – Ezekiel
3. Read Day 27 – Daniel
4. Read Day 28 – Hosea
5. Read Day 29 – Joel
6. Read Day 30 – Amos
7. Catch up on your reading, and/or attend group meeting

### **Week 6 Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

#### **Day 25 – Lamentations**

- A. Lamentations is a collection of mournful poems about the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. Though filled with despair, the writer remembered God's steadfast love and faithfulness, as recorded in our reading from Lamentations 3:19–24. Imagine witnessing the destruction of your city and your people taken captive. How could the writer still have hope?
- B. Have you or someone you know ever witnessed war or great destruction? How did that impact you?
- C. How can we recall God's goodness when everything around us is destroyed?
- D. Based on our text from Lamentations 3, what new blessings can we receive from God each morning?
- E. How can we see the Lord as our portion?

#### **Day 26 – Ezekiel**

- A. Ezekiel, a priest and prophet, saw visions of God's plans for judgment and restoration for the people of that time and far into the future (Ezekiel 37). Our reading in Ezekiel 36:26–28 records God's plans for regenerating people's hearts. These promises apply to us as believers in Jesus, our Messiah. How does this passage describe the Holy Spirit's work in our lives?
- B. As a Christian, how have you noticed your heart being transformed by the indwelling Spirit?
- C. What experiences give you a hardened heart?
- D. How has God healed and restored your heart? What can we do to seek God for more inner healing?

- E. Based on our reading from Ezekiel, what does God's Spirit move us to do? What blessings result from this?

### **Day 27 – Daniel**

- A. After Babylon defeated Jerusalem, the king took Daniel and 3 other Hebrew young men into training in his royal courts (Daniel 1:1–6). God blessed Daniel with special wisdom and visions (Daniel 1:17). From our reading of Daniel 2, the king demanded that someone tell his dream and interpret it. The Lord revealed the king's dream to Daniel in a vision and Daniel praised God for this gift. Have you ever had a dream you thought was from God?
- B. What was the outcome?
- C. From our reading of Daniel 6, we find Daniel thrown into the lions' den because he prayed to God and not to the king. What happened to Daniel?
- D. How did Daniel respond to the king?
- E. Has God ever miraculously spared your life from a great danger or accident? How did you know God intervened?

### **Day 28 – Hosea**

- A. Hosea was a prophet who married a prostitute. Although Hosea was faithful, his unfaithful wife represented the unfaithfulness of the Israelites toward God (Hosea 1:1–2). In our readings from Hosea 2, we see God's plans for restoration. How did God restore sinful mankind to Himself?
- B. In John 10:9 (NKJV), Jesus refers to Himself as the door. How is Jesus our door of hope?
- C. As Christians, we are sons and daughters of God and counted among His people. How does that affect your daily living and your view of heaven?
- D. In our reading from Hosea 6, how does this foreshadow Christ?
- E. How can we press on to acknowledge the Lord?

### **Day 29 – Joel**

- A. In our reading from Joel 2:28–32, how did Joel prophesy about Christ?
- B. In Acts 2:1–21, Peter quoted this passage from Joel on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit filled believers. How is God continuing to pour out His Spirit?
- C. In our reading, Joel also wrote of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. A similar description of this final judgment day for humanity is found in 2 Peter 3:8–13. How does God send a lifeline to anyone who will respond to Him?
- D. Many people are praying for a worldwide revival. How can we partner with the Holy Spirit to share the gospel message with others?
- E. Who can you pray for to receive salvation in Christ?

**Day 30 – Amos**

- A. The prophet, Amos, warned of God's just judgment against sin. In our reading from Amos 2:4, what sins had the people committed?
- B. What laws of God do people in our culture reject today?
- C. As we read Amos 5:24, how did God bring justice through Jesus?
- D. In Amos 9:13–15, we read of Israel's restoration. How has this prophecy been fulfilled already?
- E. How will it be completely fulfilled in the future?

# ***The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide**

## **Week 7**

### **Seven Daily Readings (completed individually before the group meeting):**

1. Read Day 31 – Obadiah
2. Read Day 32 – Jonah
3. Read Day 33 – Micah
4. Read Day 34 – Nahum
5. Read Day 35 – Habakkuk
6. Read Day 36 – Zephaniah
7. Catch up on your reading, and/or attend group meeting

### **Week 7 Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

#### **Day 31 – Obadiah**

- A. From our reading in Obadiah 1:3, the prophet Obadiah warned against pride. Some say pride is at the root of many sins. How can pride deceive us?
- B. Have you ever discovered hidden pride in yourself? How did you handle it?
- C. In Obadiah 1:15, we read of God’s judgment for all nations. How can we pray for all the nations of the earth?
- D. Do you know any missionaries serving around the world? How can you pray for them?
- E. The reading from Obadiah 1:17 reminds us of Jesus as our Deliverer. How has Jesus delivered you from something? Are there areas where you would like more freedom from sin? How can you seek God for this?

#### **Day 32 – Jonah**

- A. As recorded in our reading, Jonah ran away from the Lord and refused to follow His instructions. How did God respond to Jonah’s rebellion?
- B. God saw Jonah each step of the way and even answered his prayer from the belly of a fish. Have you ever felt unseen by God?
- C. Have you ever cried out to God from a dark place? What was the outcome?
- D. After Jonah surrendered and followed God’s instructions, he traveled to Nineveh with a warning for the people. Jonah became angry because God forgave the people of Nineveh when they repented. Why was Jonah refusing God from the start?
- E. Have you ever struggled to forgive someone? How does God help us forgive? How is forgiving different from forgetting? How is forgiveness different from reconciliation?

### **Day 33 – Micah**

- A. We serve a holy God, something our human minds cannot fully comprehend (Psalm 99:9). What does the passage from Micah 6:6–8 teach about the offerings we bring to a holy God?
- B. Because God is holy and perfect, every person stands guilty of sin before Him. Like other prophets, Micah called for people to turn from sin which results in God’s wrath. God’s wrath is not like people’s anger. God’s wrath is best understood as God’s righteous ruling or just judgment against evil. What offering would be great enough to atone for our sin against a holy Creator God?
- C. How does this passage highlight our need for a Savior?
- D. From our reading of Micah 6:6–8, what does the Lord desire?
- E. Have you known someone who acted justly, loved mercy, and walked humbly with God? How did this person reflect Jesus’ image?

### **Day 34 – Nahum**

- A. Although the book of Nahum addressed the nation of Nineveh, the general principle in this Scripture applies to any nation at any time. God will uphold His justice and righteousness in the end. God will judge and punish those who do not repent and follow Him. What do our readings from Nahum reveal about God’s nature?
- B. Nahum 1:3 (NIV) reads, “The LORD is slow to anger but great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.” How do these words bring comfort?
- C. How do you feel about God’s mercy when you have made a sinful choice or foolish mistake? How does God respond when we confess, repent, and return to Him?
- D. How do you feel when others have sinned against you and hurt you?
- E. In Romans 12:19 (ESV) we read, “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’” How does this Scripture give you peace when you experience injustice?

### **Day 35 – Habakkuk**

- A. The prophet Habakkuk lived in tumultuous times as the Babylonians defeated Jerusalem and took captives.<sup>5</sup> Habakkuk questioned why God allowed injustices and times of suffering (Hab. 1:1–4). God reminded Habakkuk, “The righteous shall live by his faith” (2:4, ESV). How is Habakkuk’s great faith in God revealed through our reading from Habakkuk 3:17–19?
- B. Have you ever experienced a time of serious financial need or persecution? How did that impact your faith?
- C. How can this Scripture strengthen us when the blessings we once had are now gone?
- D. How can we find joy in God our Savior?
- E. How does the Lord give us strength?

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<sup>5</sup> Paul R. House and Eric Mitchell, *Old Testament Survey*, Second Edition (Nashville: B&H Academic, 2007), 253.

**Day 36 – Zephaniah**

- A. From our reading of Zephaniah 3:17, how is God’s redeeming love illustrated?
- B. How does this passage point to Christ?
- C. What images from this Scripture resonate with you?
- D. Have you ever pictured Jesus rejoicing over you with gladness and singing?
- E. How does God quiet us with His love?

# ***The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide**

## **Week 8**

### **Seven Daily Readings (completed individually before the group meeting):**

1. Read Day 37 – Haggai
2. Read Day 38 – Zechariah
3. Read Day 39 – Malachi
4. Read Day 40 – Matthew
5. Read Day 41 – Mark
6. Read Day 42 – Luke
7. Catch up on your reading, and/or attend group meeting

### **Week 8 Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

#### **Day 37 – Haggai**

- A. Haggai prophesied to the Israelites during the rebuilding of the second temple in Jerusalem (Hag. 1:1–2). From our reading in Haggai 1:3–9, what word of correction was God communicating?
- B. How does this apply to us today?
- C. When we see the beauty of God’s creation, what does it reveal about His nature?
- D. Why should believers be good stewards of God’s gifts—our money, home, family, health, mind, etc.?
- E. Have you ever seen a church where the people kept their homes in good condition, but neglected the church building? Or have you been in a church where people are busy with sports and entertainment on a Sunday and have no time for God? How does this reflect our heart toward God?

#### **Day 38 – Zechariah**

- A. The book of Zechariah includes many prophecies about Christ (Zech. 3:8–9; 9:9; 12:10; 13:1) and His saving mercy for people from every nation who turn to Him (2:10–12). According to our reading from Zechariah 4:6–7, how will God accomplish his plans?
- B. What great mountain has Christ removed in our lives?
- C. Why is it easy to rely on our strengths and resources instead of God?
- D. Can you remember a time when God’s Spirit worked powerfully in your life?
- E. What mountain do you see in your life today? How can you surrender this obstacle to the indwelling Holy Spirit and partner with Him?

## Day 39 – Malachi

- A. Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament. There were approximately 400 silent years between Malachi, the last Old Testament book, and the first book in the New Testament.<sup>6</sup> From our reading in Malachi 3:6–7, he warns God’s people, who had gone astray, to return to the Lord. What qualities of God are described in this passage?
- B. In the passage from Malachi 3:16–18, how is God remembering those who fear and esteem Him? Can you imagine this scene? How is this similar to Revelation 20:11–14?
- C. How is God’s love for us described here?
- D. How are God’s justice and righteousness displayed?
- E. Because of Jesus, we are God’s treasured possession (Deut. 7:6–9; 1 Pet. 2:9). How does that make you feel toward God?

## Day 40 – Matthew

- A. The first four books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—are called the Gospels, because they tell the good news of Jesus’ mission to save humanity from sin through His life, death, burial, and resurrection. The word gospel means “good news”<sup>7</sup> and is used throughout the New Testament. Which of the passages we read from Matthew were most memorable to you?
- B. In our reading from Matthew 4:17, what words did Jesus use when He began His ministry on earth? How is this unlike what the world teaches about Jesus?
- C. In Matthew 26:63–66, how did Jesus reveal His divinity? Why did the high priest tear his robes and condemn Jesus to death?
- D. Our reading from Matthew 28:18–20 is known as the great commission. What is the difference between someone who believes in Jesus versus someone who is Jesus’ disciple? Have you helped anyone become a disciple of Christ?
- E. The final sentence of the great commission is, “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” How do Jesus’ words bring comfort and strength?

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<sup>6</sup> Paul R. House and Eric Mitchell, *Old Testament Survey*, Second Edition (Nashville: B&H Academic, 2007), 264.

<sup>7</sup> William D. Mounce, et al., *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006), 302.

**Day 41 – Mark**

- A. From our reading in Mark 4:35–41, how was Jesus' divine nature revealed?
- B. Why did Jesus allow His disciples to witness His power over creation?
- C. Have you ever witnessed a miracle or heard of someone who did? How did that impact your faith?
- D. In our reading from Mark 14:61–65, Jesus affirmed that He is the Messiah, the Son of God. How did the high priest and others respond? Why did they respond this way?
- E. How did the high priest's response differ from Jesus' disciples? How are these responses representative of people's responses today?

**Day 42 – Luke**

- A. From our reading of Luke 2:8–18, what did you find most amazing?
- B. In our reading from Luke 7:36–50, there was a woman who lived a sinful life. How does she demonstrate her faith and devotion to Jesus? How did Jesus treat her?
- C. Jesus taught many important truths through this conversation. What was one of them?
- D. In the passage we read from Luke 23:32–34, Jesus forgave those who crucified Him. What does this highlight about His nature?
- E. What is Jesus teaching us about forgiveness?

# ***The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide**

## **Week 9**

### **Seven Daily Readings (completed individually before the group meeting):**

1. Read Day 43 – John
2. Read Day 44 – Acts
3. Read Day 45 – Romans
4. Read Day 46 – 1 Corinthians
5. Read Day 47 – 2 Corinthians
6. Read Day 48 – Galatians
7. Catch up on your reading, and/or attend group meeting

### **Week 9 Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

#### **Day 43 – John**

- A. The three Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—chronicle Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Though each book offers a unique presentation of the gospel, they are called synoptic gospels, meaning “seeing together”<sup>8</sup> because of the similarities in their accounts. John’s gospel focuses more on Jesus as God—part of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our reading from John 1:1–3 describes Jesus’ divine nature. How is this different from the descriptions of Jesus found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke?
- B. Which of our readings from the gospel of John resonated most with you?
- C. In our reading from John 3:16–18, we see Jesus died for the sins of the world. God invites all to receive salvation. However, only those who believe will receive God’s offer of salvation. What does this reveal about God?
- D. In our reading from John 14:6, what point does Jesus make clear? How is this different from what the world teaches?
- E. Do you know anyone who is following another religion or worshiping someone other than Jesus? How can we pray for those who are not Christians?

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8 Robert H. Gundry, *A Survey of the New Testament*, Fifth Edition (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012), 118.

### **Day 44 – Acts**

- A. From our reading in Acts 1:4–11, what did Jesus teach His disciples before His ascension to heaven?
- B. The day the Holy Spirit filled the disciples is called Pentecost (Acts 2:1–4). According to our reading in Acts 2:38, when do believers receive the gift of the Holy Spirit today?
- C. Scripture lists the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:8–10. God gives individuals different spiritual gifts for the common good. In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is not given but grown. The fruit of the Spirit consists of character traits the Holy Spirit cultivates in a Christian's heart. Galatians 5:22 (ESV) records those qualities: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." How do these qualities help us grow to reflect Jesus?
- D. How have you seen the Holy Spirit at work in your life or someone else's life?
- E. Based on our text from Acts 16:31, what does Scripture teach about how a person can be saved? How does this impact our families? Do you have family members who do not believe in Jesus or follow Him? How can you pray to share your faith with them?

### **Day 45 – Romans**

- A. What do the verses we read from Romans teach about the basics of our Christian faith?
- B. How could you use these verses to explain your faith to someone else?
- C. Why is Romans 3:23 an important place to begin? How is this different from the world's viewpoint of humanity?
- D. In these verses how does God demonstrate His love for us?
- E. How do these verses clarify we are saved by grace through faith, not by our merit or good deeds? Why is this critical for us as Christians?

### **Day 46 – 1 Corinthians**

- A. According to our reading from 1 Corinthians 13:1–13, how does God define love?
- B. How is this different from the world's description of love?
- C. Why is godly love so important? When have you experienced Christlike love from someone else? Who was that person? How has that person impacted your life?
- D. In our reading from 1 Corinthians 15:3–6, how is the gospel message reaffirmed?
- E. Why is love an important part of sharing the gospel with others?

## **Day 47 – 2 Corinthians**

- A. From 2 Corinthians 4:6–10, we read of God’s light shining in our hearts. What blessing do we gain from this?
- B. From this passage, we read of Christians suffering many afflictions. How can hope be found amid hardship?
- C. 2 Corinthians 4:15–18 contrasts the outer self and the inner self. How can this encourage you or someone you know who is aging, sick, or facing a physical limitation or disability?
- D. How has God used hardships in your life in a redemptive way?
- E. Why is it difficult to think of visible things as temporary, but unseen things as eternal? Based on this Scripture, what is most important?

## **Day 48 – Galatians**

- A. Based on our reading from Galatians 5:16–25, how is the flesh different from the Spirit?
- B. Using this passage, reread the works of the flesh. To what extent do movies, TV, video games, and the internet portray these actions? How might that affect our life in the Spirit?
- C. Reread the qualities that show the fruit of the Spirit. Which Spirit-based trait is most evident in your life? Which trait would you like to increase?
- D. We can’t manufacture these Holy Spirit traits ourselves. How can we grow in the fruit of the Spirit?
- E. How can we keep in step with the Spirit?

# ***The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide**

## **Week 10**

### **Seven Daily Readings (completed individually before the group meeting):**

1. Read Day 49 – Ephesians
2. Read Day 50 – Philippians
3. Read Day 51– Colossians
4. Read Day 52 – 1 Thessalonians
5. Read Day 53 – 2 Thessalonians
6. Read Day 54 – 1 Timothy
7. Catch up on your reading, and/or attend group meeting

### **Week 10 Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

#### **Day 49 – Ephesians**

- A. How does the passage from Ephesians 2:4–10 describe God’s mercy and love for us? Which of God’s blessings from this passage are most striking to you?
- B. In Ephesians 6:10–18, Scripture teaches there is a spiritual realm, not just a physical realm. Although we may encounter earthly enemies or people who mistreat us, who is our real enemy?
- C. What does each piece of the armor of God represent? Why is each piece critical in our spiritual life?
- D. After we have done all, what are we commanded to do? In a war, the side that already possesses the land only needs to stand. It is the losing side that needs to gain ground.<sup>9</sup> Why does God instruct us to stand in this Scripture?
- E. Have you ever experienced spiritual warfare? How did you use the armor of God?

#### **Day 50 – Philippians**

- A. In Philippians 2:5–11, how did Jesus use His divine power?
- B. How was Jesus’ obedience to the Father rewarded?
- C. Our reading of Philippians 4:4–9 gives us several practical pieces of advice for daily spiritual life. Which do you find most helpful or needed in your life?
- D. How does our focus on Jesus empower us to rejoice in the Lord even in hard times?
- E. How does it change your outlook and emotions when you focus on good things?

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<sup>9</sup> Watchman Nee, *Sit, Walk, Stand* (Fort Washington, PA: CLC Publications 2009), 57.

### **Day 51 – Colossians**

- A. Based on our reading from Colossians 1:9–20, what will a knowledge of God’s will help believers to do?
- B. What does it mean that God delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son?
- C. How is Jesus’ divine power and preeminence described in this passage?
- D. Although Jesus is called the Son of God, He is not a created being, but rather part of the eternally existing Godhead. How does this passage make that clear?
- E. How does this Scripture affect your perspective of Jesus? How should we reflect this in our worship of Him?

### **Day 52 – 1 Thessalonians**

- A. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18, we read of Jesus’ second coming. What do you notice about this description of Christ’s return?
- B. Why would we encourage each other with these words?
- C. The reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 provides instruction for living a spiritual life according to God’s will. Which part of this instruction is most helpful to you?
- D. The word sanctify means to make holy, set apart, or consecrate.<sup>10</sup> Why is God sanctifying us as Christians?
- E. Have you ever imagined the day you will see Jesus face to face? How do you think you will respond?

### **Day 53 – 2 Thessalonians**

- A. In 2 Thessalonians 1:5–12, we read about God’s judgment, which will begin when Jesus reveals himself from heaven. Eternal punishment and removal from the Lord’s presence will be the fate of those who reject Christ. In what ways does this passage stir an urgency for spiritual action?
- B. Have you ever thought about heaven and hell?
- C. The Bible teaches that both heaven and hell are real, as we read in this Scripture. How does this affect your perspective? How is that different from what the world teaches?
- D. 2 Thessalonians 2:10 teaches about the end times. What part stood out to you?
- E. How does this verse give you peace when you think of the end times: “And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming” (2 Thess. 2:8, *ESV*).

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<sup>10</sup> William D. Mounce, et al., *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006), 611.

## **Day 54 – 1 Timothy**

- A. Our reading from 1 Timothy 2:1–6 tells Christians to pray for leaders and those in authority. Why is this good and pleasing to God?
- B. How does good leadership help us live peaceful, quiet, godly, and dignified lives? How does this serve our kingdom work here on earth? Who does God desire to be saved?
- C. Do you pray daily for our nation’s president—regardless of their political party?
- D. In Daniel 2:21 (ESV), we read, “He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings.” How does this remind us of God’s sovereignty over earthly leaders, including our bosses at work? How does this give you a different perspective when praying for our leaders?
- E. Do you pray for your spiritual leaders—your pastor, Sunday School teachers, youth pastor, small group leaders, choir or worship music directors, etc.? Is there a way you or your small group could pray more intentionally for our leaders?

# ***The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide**

## **Week 11**

### **Seven Daily Readings (completed individually before the group meeting):**

1. Read Day 55 – 2 Timothy
2. Read Day 56 – Titus
3. Read Day 57 – Philemon
4. Read Day 58 – Hebrews
5. Read Day 59 – James
6. Read Day 60 – 1 Peter
7. Catch up on your reading, and/or attend group meeting

### **Week 11 Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

#### **Day 55 – 2 Timothy**

- A. Based on 2 Timothy 3:16, how should we view Scripture? All Scripture? Why do Christians believe the Old and New Testaments hold equal importance?
- B. Have you ever met someone who didn't believe the Bible was true? How did you respond?
- C. In 2 Timothy 4:1–5, we read of people who will turn away from listening to the truth. Have you ever met someone who claimed to be a Christian, but only believed some parts of the Bible, while he or she completely rejected other parts? How did you respond?
- D. In 2 Timothy 2:7–8, Paul exhorts believers to keep the faith, for Jesus will reward us with a crown of righteousness. Do you ever feel like you are running a marathon as a Christian?
- E. How can we encourage Christians who are weary?

#### **Day 56 – Titus**

- A. According to Titus 2:11–14, what is our blessed hope?
- B. What are believers called to do while we wait for Christ's return?
- C. Out of gratitude to Jesus, are you zealous to do good works? Do you know someone who is? How do they inspire you?
- D. Have you ever met anyone who was intentionally looking for the return of Christ? How did that affect your faith?
- E. In Titus 3:3–7, Scripture reminds us of our sin nature before we followed Christ. How should this impact our compassion toward unbelievers?

## **Day 57 – Philemon**

- A. In this book, Paul wrote to Philemon about his bondservant, Onesimus. Onesimus had run away from Philemon. After meeting Paul, Onesimus became a Christian, and they became like father and son. Paul pleaded with Philemon to receive Onesimus back—not as a bondservant—but as a beloved brother. Through this book of the Bible, the gospel message sheds light on the issue of slavery. How should our salvation in Christ transform our relationships with others?
- B. How should this teaching affect our view of people from lower or higher positions, authority levels, jobs, social standing, financial or educational levels, friendship circles, different cultural or ethnic backgrounds, etc.?
- C. How does our salvation remind us to be humble and yet take hold of all the blessings we have in Christ?
- D. Do you have any friends who are different from you? If so, in what ways?
- E. Revelation 7:9 describes heaven with people from every nation, tribe, people, and language. Have you ever tried to imagine heaven with all the various people? How will heaven be different from earth?

## **Day 58 – Hebrews**

- A. From our reading in Hebrews 1:1–4, how has God spoken to us in these last days?
- B. What are several ways Jesus is depicted in this Scripture? Which phrase from this Scripture impacts your vision of Jesus?
- C. Hebrews 4:12–16 teaches us the word of God is living. How have you experienced this to be true in your life?
- D. In the Old Testament, the high priest presented a sacrifice before God to atone for the people's sins (Leviticus 7). How is Jesus our final High Priest?
- E. How does this passage encourage believers to draw near to God? How does your faith affect your prayers?

## **Day 59 – James**

- A. According to James 2:14–17, Christians' actions give evidence of their faith. Have you ever met someone who claimed to be a Christian, but their lifestyle did not match? How did that make you feel?
- B. Do you know any Christians who clearly demonstrate their love for Jesus by their words and actions? What makes this person's faith appealing?
- C. In what areas of your life, would you like to be more like Jesus?
- D. What does James 5:16 teach about confession, prayer, and healing?
- E. As Christians, our only righteousness comes from Christ. How does our relationship with Jesus empower our prayers?

**Day 60 – 1 Peter**

- A. How does 1 Peter 2:9–10 portray Christians? Are you able to embrace these descriptions for yourself?
- B. How does the simple gospel message, recorded in 1 Peter 2:24, encourage you?
- C. What is God’s view of pride, as expressed in 1 Peter 5:5a–11? How does this differ from the world’s view of pride?
- D. In this Scripture, how is the devil depicted? How does that make you feel?
- E. How does the Bible instruct us to handle the devil? How does it help to remember that Christ has the ultimate dominion forever?

# ***The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide**

## **Week 12**

### **Seven Daily Readings (completed individually before the group meeting):**

1. Read Day 61 – 2 Peter
2. Read Day 62 – 1 John
3. Read Day 63 – 2 John
4. Read Day 64 – 3 John
5. Read Day 65 – Jude
6. Read Day 66 – Revelation
7. Catch up on your reading, and/or attend group meeting—and celebrate, you’re done!

### **Week 12 Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

#### **Day 61 – 2 Peter**

- A. In our reading from 2 Peter 3:8–13, how does God experience time differently than we do? Have you prayed for anything and waited a long time for God to answer? Or maybe you still have not received an answer. How does this passage encourage you?
- B. When people see wickedness in the world, many pray for Jesus to return soon. God explains why He is waiting in this passage. How should that affect our prayers?
- C. How does this Scripture describe the “day of the Lord?”
- D. What other Bible verses similarly describe the end times or final judgment?
- E. 2 Peter 3:13 restates God’s promise of a new heaven and earth where righteousness will dwell. How is God’s judgment against evil, also His mercy? Why would it be cruel for a sinful world to continue forever?

#### **Day 62 – 1 John**

- A. 1 John 1:9 begins “**If** we confess our sins...” Why is the rest of this verse contingent on this?
- B. Do you ever feel guilt or shame for sins you already confessed and repented of in the past? Once we confess our sins to the Lord, how can we be assured of His forgiveness?
- C. Who is the source of love, as recorded in 1 John 4:19.
- D. 1 John 5:1–5 shows that loving God includes obeying His commands. God’s love is not based on merit. However, obedience positions us to receive more of God’s love. How have you experienced this in your own family as a parent or child?
- E. According to this Scripture, how do we overcome the world? How does that make you feel?

### **Day 63 – 2 John**

- A. Many warnings for believers are recorded in 2 John 7–9. Why should believers watch themselves?
- B. Have you ever met someone who did not believe Jesus would return to gather His followers and bring judgment on the earth? How did that impact your faith?
- C. In John 15, Jesus says to abide in Him and in His word. How is that similar to this Scripture?
- D. How does reading God’s Word help you stay connected to Jesus?
- E. How does God’s Word help you discern deception and lies spoken in the world and culture?

### **Day 64 – 3 John**

- A. John begins this letter with a prayer for Gaius to “prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” (3 John 2, NKJV). How can we use God’s blessings of prosperous times and good health for His purposes?
- B. Who is the truth (John 14:6)?
- C. Why is important to desire and believe the truth (John 17:17)? How is this different from the world’s teaching that “you can have your truth and I can have my truth?”
- D. Who is the father of lies (John 8:44)?
- E. How can we teach the children in our lives to walk according to the truth, as God defines truth?

### **Day 65 – Jude**

- A. Jude 17–24 warns believers about the last times. What should we expect?
- B. In contrast to the world, how are Christians instructed to live?
- C. How should we show mercy to others, yet guard ourselves?
- D. Have you ever helped someone who was involved in sin or bad choices? How did you set healthy boundaries to protect yourself?
- E. God saved us by grace through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8–9). The Holy Spirit sealed us (Ephesians 1:13–14). He will bring us to heaven (John 14:1–3). Can you imagine the joy we will experience in heaven?

## **Day 66 – Revelation**

- A. Try to envision the worship scene from Revelation 7:9–12. What part do you find most moving or memorable?
- B. In Revelation 19:11–16, Scripture foretells Jesus’ return to judge the earth. What name is on His robe and thigh? How is this vision of Jesus different from his first coming?
- C. According to Revelation 21:1–8, how will the new heaven and earth differ from our present heaven and earth?
- D. Revelation 22:1–5 includes another descriptor of the new heaven and earth. What stands out most to you as you imagine this scene? How do these Scriptures expand or clarify your vision of heaven?
- E. How does Revelation 22:20 make you long to see Jesus?

### **Questions for reflection upon completion:**

- A. Congratulations! How do you feel having completed *The Whole Bible Devotional* and *Small Group Study Guide*?
- B. Can you understand the Bible better as a whole, and recognize God’s sweeping redemption plan in Christ? What was something important you learned through this study?
- C. Did you draw closer to Jesus? Can you see Jesus more clearly through the Scriptures?
- D. How did prayer enrich your Bible reading?
- E. Jesus quoted, believed, taught from, and fulfilled the Old Testament Scriptures. Why is it important for Christians to believe and study both the Old and New Testaments?
- F. What goals will you set next for continued spiritual growth in Christ?

# ***The Whole Bible Devotional* • Small Group Study Guide**

## **Additional Bible Study Activities**

Below are some additional Bible Study activities for those who desire more in-depth study opportunities.

### **1. Research Various Bible Timelines**

Below are two online free printable resources.

Detailed Bible Timeline from Lifeway:

<https://explorethebible.lifeway.com/bible-timeline-poster-thank-you/>

Simple Bible Timeline from Sunday School Zone (for families, kids, or adults):

<https://sundayschoolzone.com/activity/free-printable-bible-timeline-chart/>

Read carefully through the Bible timeline. Take note of the major events and where they are recorded in the books of the Bible. What did you learn or remember? Which timespan was the longest or shortest? What surprised you?

How can a Bible timeline enhance your understanding or broaden your perspective when reading the Bible?

Before your personal Bible reading time, review a Bible timeline to understand each book within the wider context of God's redemption story.

### **2. Research and write down a grouping system for the books of the Bible**

Research various groupings or categories of Bible books. Choose one that is most meaningful to you. Write down or print out a list of the books of the Bible and sort them according to the category.

Here are some ideas:

- **Timespan** (from creation to Abraham, from Abraham to Moses, from Moses to the promised land, etc.)
- **Types of literature or genres** (Old Testament: Pentateuch or Torah/Law, Historical Books, Poetic or Wisdom Books, Prophetic Books; New Testament: Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, Letters/Epistles, Revelation/Prophetic)
- **Major Events** (Genesis, for example—Creation, Fall, Flood, Abraham, Israel, Joseph)

Here are some websites to assist with categorizing books of the Bible:

BibleGateway

<https://www.biblegateway.com/blog/2016/03/the-many-genres-of-scripture/>

Bible Study Tools

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/books-of-the-bible/>

### 3. Connect each book of the Bible with Jesus

List each book of the Bible. Record a short note of how that book points to Jesus. For example:

**Genesis:** Adam and Eve rebelled against God; God foretold the coming of Christ, the One who would crush the head of Satan.

**Exodus:** The Passover lamb's blood covered the doorposts so the people were spared from death; likewise, Jesus' blood covers our hearts and we are spared from eternal separation from God.

### 4. Study maps that illustrate Bible times

Research maps of various Bible times. These are included in some Bibles. Look through the headings of given books of the Bible and trace the account on the Bible map of that time.

Below are two online resources for Bible maps:

- iBible Maps – Free interactive Bible maps online (best viewed on laptop or desktop): <https://ibiblemaps.com/>
- Knowing the Bible: <https://www.knowingthebible.net/bible-maps>

### 5. Research additional trusted Bible Study online resources

Below are some suggested resources. These websites include free online Bibles for reading, Bible commentaries, Bible reading plans, and many other helpful tools. Browse through and enjoy God's Word!

- Bible Hub: <https://biblehub.com/>
- Bible Gateway: <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- Logos Bible Study: <https://www.logos.com/>
- Bible.org: <https://bible.org/>