
Introduction

King David didn't have a Bible and he never sat on a hillside reading a devotional book. He probably couldn't even read—and yet he knew God as well as anyone who ever walked the face of planet earth. In fact most people you read about in the Bible were illiterate so they memorized large portions of the Bible as they listened to it being recited by their parents and read by the priests and scribes in the local synagogues and the Sanctuary. It was by listening and memorizing it for himself that David learned to love the Bible. Throughout Psalms David talks about how much he loves the Sanctuary and God's law—he even says he meditated on it day and night.

The most important passage of scripture in ancient Jewish culture is the Shema:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your strength.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Impress them on your children.

Talk about them when you sit at home
and when you walk along the road,
when you lie down and when you get up.

When you sit down and immerse yourself in scripture—spending long periods of time in just a few verses—you are following in the footsteps of the ancient Israelites and Jesus Himself. Reflecting on Scripture and memorizing it's lessons locks it in your mind where no one can take it from you.

This Living it Application Guide is to help you in this journey of understanding scripture and especially with Living it. The chapter guides are not comprehensive—they do not cover every detail of each chapter—that would take a few hundred pages. Each chapter guide chooses a few key points to help you start thinking differently about Scripture—to remember it and internalize it. The guides for the chapters are structured as follows:

1. Warm Up: Questions for individual reflection/small group discussion. These questions will attempt to help the participants relate aspects of their own lives to the lives of the Bible characters. This will involve personal sharing.
2. Engaging the Passage: This will include some discussion of the passage and one or more of the following:
 - a. Entering the passage as a participant or bystander to help imagine the scene.
 - b. Relevant historical/background information.
 - c. Reflection/discussion questions that go deeper into the passage
3. Applying the Passage to Your Life
 - a. Thought provoking application questions
 - b. Calls for commitment to action
4. Time of Prayer: May include any or all of the following:
Adoration/confession/requests/praises/silent prayer/conversational prayer

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

— JOHN 17:17 (NKJV)

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophets' own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

— 2 PETER 1:20-21 (NIV)

It is not safe for us to turn from the Holy Scriptures with only a casual reading of their sacred pages... Rein the mind up to the high task that has been set before it, and study with determined interest, that you may understand divine truth. Those who do this will be surprised to find what the mind can attain. The mind must be restrained and not allowed to wander. It should be trained to dwell upon the Scriptures and upon noble, elevating themes. Portions of Scripture, even whole chapters, may be committed to memory to be repeated when Satan comes in with his temptations.

— ELLEN G. WHITE

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Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

— PSALMS 119:105 (NKJV)

5. Outreach Ideas: Some chapter guides will include ideas for getting outside of yourself or your group and reaching the world around you—that's how you Live it!

The recommended companions for this series are: Andrews Study Bible, Authentic: Committed for Life, by Scott R. Ward, <http://livingiths.org/resources/pathfinders>

May Jesus Christ Himself bless you richly as you embark on this journey to making God's Word a Living and vital part of who you are.

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