
Introduction for Pathfinders

Pathfinders from across North America are committing to memory verses, chapters and books of the Bible as part of the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE). PBE is a wonderful starting point for Bible study and a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. But memorization is just the beginning.

The Pathfinder Bible Experience Application Guide was developed to help Pathfinders and young people meditate and reflect on what the Bible says and how it applies to life today. It features ideas for application to help you use what you study as part of the Pathfinder Bible Experience and apply it to your daily experience at home, school and church.

There are two objectives for this application guide: 1) you can learn more about the passages you are studying as part of PBE, examine your life and grow stronger spiritually; and 2) you can use these guides to become involved in outreach by leading out in small group Bible studies with friends and peers in Pathfinders or at school. The goal is for you to grow spiritually both in your personal walk with Jesus and as you minister to others.

This resource has the potential to revolutionize your life. Go beyond the reading and memorizing—go deeper. Get into the application and be ready to experience what a difference God can make in you and through you. You don't just need to memorize Scripture—you can also live it.

How to Use this Resource

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 scripture as they listened to it being recited by their parents and read by priests and scribes in the local synagogues and sanctuary. David learned to love the Bible through listening and memorizing it for himself. 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 participate in the Pathfinder Bible Experience you are following in the footsteps of the ancient Israelites and Jesus Himself. Memorizing scripture locks it in your mind where no one can take it from you, but if all you do is memorize it, it does little good—you must allow it to guide you as you walk through life every day.

This PBE Application Guide will help you in this journey of understanding scripture and 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 get beyond memorization and on to internalization.

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.

