

dwell[®]



DIVE

Dear Family,

As Christians, we believe that “all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). However, that doesn’t mean that reading the Bible is a simple or easy task. We’ll be spending the next six weeks exploring what Bible study is and how we can best read and respond to God’s Word. Here’s a summary of what your young teen will be exploring in this *Dive* unit:

Easter Session: The Center of Our Faith 1 Corinthians 15:1-28, 55-58 (Christ’s resurrection is the most important event in history and is essential for our salvation.) 

Session 1: Why the Bible? 2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (Through the Bible the Holy Spirit reveals who God is and God’s plan for redeeming his creation. God also offers us salvation and shows us a new way to live in Christ.) 

Session 2: Finding Your Way Luke 24:13-27 (Jesus Christ is the center of the Bible’s message; everything in the Bible points to him.) 

Session 3: How to Read the Bible Matthew 4:1-11 (We hear God speak most clearly in Scripture when we understand the author’s meaning.) 

Session 4: Making It a Habit Psalm 119:9-11, 97-99, 105-106, 176 (To grow spiritually we need to make a habit of reading God’s Word.) 

Session 5: Stories of the Transforming Power of Scripture Hebrews 4:12 (The Holy Spirit transforms our lives through the Scriptures.) 

Sincerely,

Pass It On

Here are some ideas for how you might engage your child in a faith discussion or live out your faith together:

- Review the Bible Reading Challenge your child selected for this unit. Talk about how you might be able to help him or her commit to the reading plan for the next four weeks, or consider taking the challenge on yourself! (Session 1)
- Talk with your child about your favorite Bible stories and see if you can work together to understand how those stories point to Jesus. (Session 2)
- Share with your child an example of how you have seen Scripture twisted and used for other purposes. Ask how your child’s Bible reading plan is going and what he or she is reading about this week. (Session 3)
- Talk with your child about your Bible reading and study habits. Don’t be worried about trying to sound like an expert, just have an open conversation about reading Scripture and about different methods you’ve tried or would like to try. (Session 4)
- Share how you have seen the Word of God “alive and active” in your life or in the lives of people you know. Connect with your child to review how their Bible Reading Challenge went and what his or her next steps might be. (Session 5)

Memory Challenge Cards (NIV)

Copy these Scripture Memory Challenge cards onto cardstock, then cut them apart to distribute to the group at the end of the appropriate sessions. Consider punching a hole in each and attaching it to a key ring or small carabineer.



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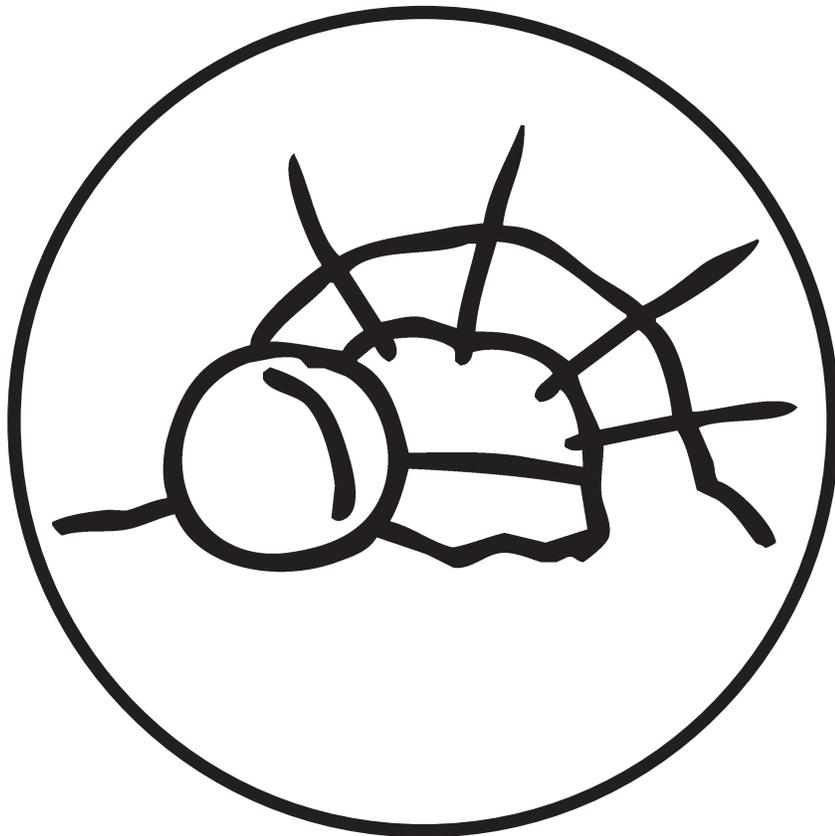


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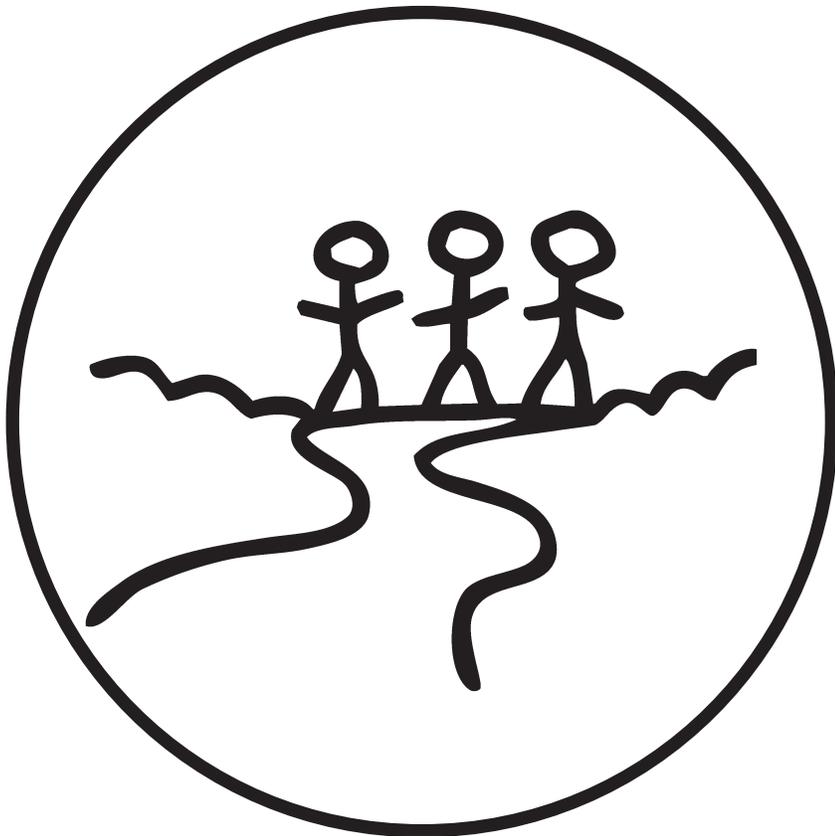
Year 3, Unit 5, Session 1



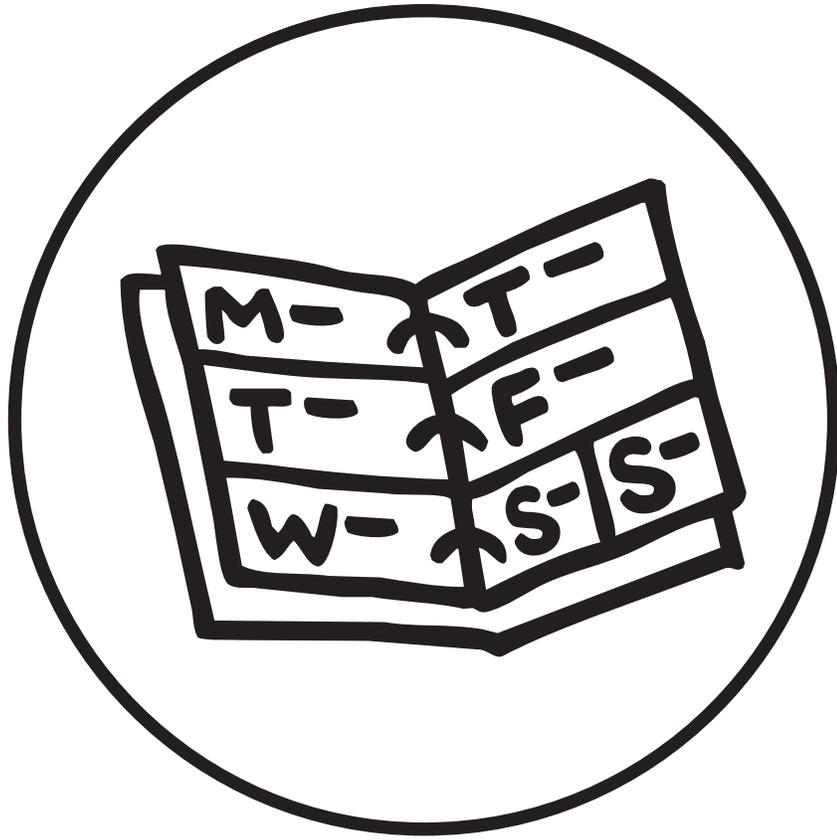
Year 3, Unit 5, Easter Session



Year 3, Unit 5, Session 3



Year 3, Unit 5, Session 2



Year 3, Unit 5, Session 5



Year 3, Unit 5, Session 4

Bible Reading Challenge

Follow the plan below to complete 28 days (4 weeks) of Bible reading. Chart your progress by placing a checkmark in the “Completed” box once you are done with each reading. If you want, write down any words, questions, or thoughts that come to mind as you read in the “Reflections” box.

Jesus

Day	Theme	Passage	Completed	Reflections
1	Jesus Foretold	Isaiah 53		
2	Birth of Jesus	Matthew 1:18-25		
3	Baptism of Jesus	Matthew 3:13-17		
4	Jesus’ Temptation	Luke 4:1-13		
5	Changing Water into Wine	John 2:1-11		
6	Calling of the Disciples	Luke 5:1-11		
7	The Beatitudes	Matthew 5:3-12		
8	Healing of the Man by the Pool	John 5:1-9		
9	The Centurion’s Faith	Matthew 8:5-13		
10	Jesus Raises a Widow’s Son	Luke 7:11-17		
11	A Woman Anoints Jesus’ Feet	Luke 7:36-50		
12	Parable of the Sower	Mark 4:1-20		
13	Parables of the Treasure and Pearl	Matthew 13:44-46		
14	Jesus Calms the Storm	Matthew 8:23-27		
15	Jesus Heals the Demon-Possessed Man	Mark 5:1-20		
16	Jesus Heals a Woman and Raises a Girl	Luke 8:40-56		
17	Feeding of the Five Thousand	John 6:4-13		
18	Jesus Walks on Water	Matthew 14:22-33		
19	Healing a Blind Man at Bethsaida	Mark 8:22-26		
20	Jesus Teaches How to Pray	Luke 11:1-13		
21	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37		
22	Cost of Discipleship	Luke 14:25-35		
23	Lazarus Raised from the Dead	John 11:1-44		
24	Parables on Prayer	Luke 18:1-14		
25	Little Children and the Kingdom	Mark 10:13-16		
26	Jesus’ Death and Burial	John 19:17-42		
27	Jesus’ Resurrection and Appearances	John 20-21		
28	Great Commission and Jesus’ Ascension	Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53		

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God’s Story

Day	Theme	Passage	Completed	Reflections
1	Creation	Genesis 1-2:3		
2	Adam and Eve	Genesis 2:4-25		
3	The Fall	Genesis 3		
4	God’s Promise to Noah	Genesis 8		
5	God Calls Abraham and Sarah	Genesis 12:1-9		
6	The Exodus	Exodus 14:15-31		
7	The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1-17		
8	Cycles of Disobedience	Judges 2:10-19		
9	The People Demand a King	1 Samuel 8		
10	The People Continue to Sin	Ezekiel 20:4-26		
11	Elijah and the Prophets of Baal	1 Kings 18		
12	Words of Comfort	Isaiah 40		
13	Jesus Foretold	Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 53		
14	Jesus Is Born	Luke 2:1-20		
15	The Word Made Flesh	John 1:1-18		
16	The Beatitudes	Matthew 5:1-12		
17	Jesus Raises a Widow’s Son	Luke 7:11-17		
18	The Parable of the Lost Son	Luke 15:11-32		
19	Jesus’ Death and Burial	John 19:17-42		
20	Jesus’ Resurrection and Appearances	John 20-21		
21	Great Commission and Ascension	Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:50-53		
22	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-24, 38-39		
23	The Early Church	Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35		
24	Righteousness by Faith Alone	Romans 3:9-31		
25	Life through Christ	Romans 5:12-21		
26	Imitating Christ	Philippians 2:1-13		
27	Love One Another	1 John 3:11-24		
28	Promise of Eternity	Revelation 21:1-5		

Biblical Genres

Instructions: Copy these pages and cut apart the genre headings and descriptions. Glue or tape these to the top of separate sheets of paper. Tape the prepared sheets to the walls around the room.

History:

Stories about how God has been working in the lives of his people throughout history. Includes books like Genesis, Joshua, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Acts.

Poetry:

Rhythmic verses, songs, and prayers that often express strong emotions. Includes books like Psalms and some material in the prophetic books.

Letters:

Personal communications to particular groups of people that allow us to “listen in” on the conversations in the early church. Paul, John, and Peter were major letter writers.

Prophecy:

Words of both warning and hope delivered by prophets—messengers delivering God’s Word to God’s people. Includes books like Isaiah and many other Old Testament writings.

Wisdom:

Sayings meant to teach the reader how to live and think wisely in God’s world. Includes books like Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, and James.

Apocalyptic:

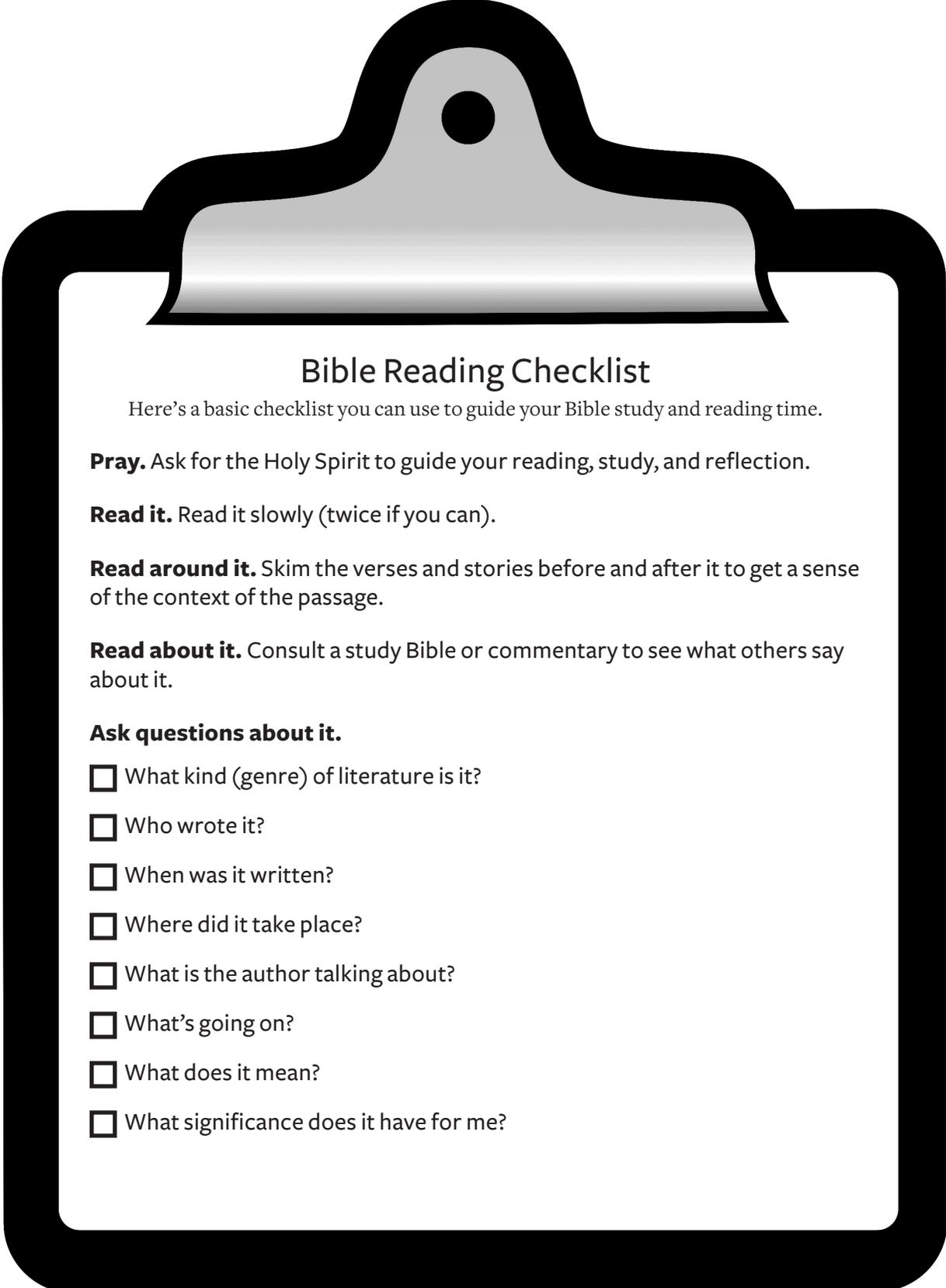
Graphic and descriptive writings that tell the writer’s vision of the end time. Includes books like Revelation, Daniel 7-12, Mark 13, and others.

Legal:

Legal codes and rules about how God's people should live in certain situations. Includes parts of Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy.

Gospel:

An account of the life and ministry of Jesus that proclaims the message of salvation through Christ. Includes the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.



Bible Reading Checklist

Here's a basic checklist you can use to guide your Bible study and reading time.

Pray. Ask for the Holy Spirit to guide your reading, study, and reflection.

Read it. Read it slowly (twice if you can).

Read around it. Skim the verses and stories before and after it to get a sense of the context of the passage.

Read about it. Consult a study Bible or commentary to see what others say about it.

Ask questions about it.

- What kind (genre) of literature is it?
- Who wrote it?
- When was it written?
- Where did it take place?
- What is the author talking about?
- What's going on?
- What does it mean?
- What significance does it have for me?

Memorization

Jeremiah 31:33 or Jeremiah 31:31-34

Materials: Bibles, index cards, pens, laptop or tablet with Internet access and speakers

When you memorize Scripture, you do more than commit it to memory in your mind; the words sink deep into you and become written upon your heart. They become part of you. You are able to call God's Word to mind when needed: for comfort, for hope, for reassurance.

Follow these simple steps to commit a passage of Scripture to memory:

1. Read it from the Bible. Find the passage in the Bible and read it. For this session, read Jeremiah 31:33 or Jeremiah 31:31-34.

2. Visualize it. After reading the passage, notice its placement on the page. Is it in the middle of a long passage? Does it start or conclude a paragraph? Look at the chapter and verse numbers. Visualize the image of the text on the page so you can recall it when you don't have a Bible handy.

3. Copy it. Copy the passage onto an index card. The act of writing helps to seal it in your brain.

4. Repeat it. Say the passage aloud at least three times. Pay attention to repeated words and main points and phrases that can help you recall the passage later.

5. Hear it/See it. If you have access to the Internet, view or listen to a YouTube clip showing the passage expressed as a reading or a song, or hum your own tune to set the verse to music.

6. Write it. Write the passage on the back of the index card on which you first wrote the passage, recalling as much of it as you can.

7. Recall it. Move to the next station and engage your brain in a completely different activity. When you complete the activity, try to recall your memory passage.

Lectio Divina

Psalm 23

Materials: Bibles, *Dive* magazines or index cards, pens

Lectio divina, or holy reading, is a way to read and study Scripture that draws you deep into the text. The process involves four steps: read, reflect, pray, and rest.

These steps have you studying God's Word as it is written and listening to God's Word as it speaks to your mind, your heart, and your feelings. You respond to God in prayer, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit to understand and apply God's Word to your life.

Step 1: Read

Read the Scripture passage for the first time (or listen to it being read).

For this session, read Psalm 23. Notice words or phrases that stand out for you. Write them out on an index card if you want.

Pause and think about those words.

Read the passage a second time, paying particular attention to the words that stood out in your first reading. These will be your focus words for this study.

Step 2: Reflect

In silence, hold the focus words in your mind. Reflect on them. Think about them. "Chew" on them.

What do these words mean in the text?

What do these words mean for you and your life?

Pause and reflect. If it is helpful, doodle or sketch as you reflect.

Step 3: Pray

Talk to God about the words you noticed from this passage. Pray that God will help you understand the words, both their meaning in the Bible and their meaning for your life.

Open yourself, in prayer, to listen for how God is speaking to you through these words.

Step 4: Rest

Take a deep breath and let the message God gave you sink into your heart. Imagine yourself living it!

Thank God for meeting you here.

At the conclusion of your reading, you may want to record your thoughts and impressions from the experience on an index card or in your *Dive* magazine.

A Rule of Life

Matthew 6:9-13

Materials: Bibles, *Dive* magazines, pens

An important way to study God’s Word is to live it. We read the words on the page and apply their teaching to the choices, decisions, and actions of our lives. In this way, we let God’s Word rule our lives, or become our “rule of life.”

We can honor God’s Word by obeying it and allowing it to shape our lives. Read a selection of Scripture and identify ways to reflect it with your life.

1. Read God’s Word.

Open your Bible to the selected passage and read it. For this session, read the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13.

2. Identify a lesson that the passage teaches about life.

Read the passage a second time, looking specifically for a central message or teaching. Write this message or teaching in your *Dive* magazine on page 20.

3. Look for priorities or actions shown in the passage.

Read the passage a third time, looking specifically for priorities or actions that will help you live the central teaching of the passage.

For example, in Matthew 6:9-13, the movements of the prayer give guidance on priorities for living one’s life:

- v. 9—“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”
Life priority: Give praise and honor to God.
- v. 10—“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”
Life priority: Live your day as if you are living in heaven, in God’s presence.

Continue reading the passage, identifying priorities for living the Lord’s Prayer. Record these priorities in your *Dive* magazine.

4. Review the priorities or actions noted in the previous step. Identify specific actions you will do to live the central teaching of the Scripture passage.

For example, in Matthew 6:9-13:

- v. 9—*Life priority:* Give praise and honor to God.
Action: Commit to ten minutes of daily prayer, which includes giving praise to God.
- v. 10—*Life priority:* Live each day as if you are living in heaven.
Action: Commit to ten minutes of daily prayer. Ask God to walk with you in the day. Imagine what your day will be like walking with God.

Continue identifying specific actions to help you live into the teaching of the Scripture passage. Record the actions in your *Dive* magazine. These actions become your Rule of Life.

5. At the close of the session, share your Rule of Life with another student and make a commitment to try to live these actions in the week ahead.

Bible Study Method Review

Method:

What I liked about this method:

When I think this method would be most helpful, usable, or valuable:

The problems with this method:

In terms of helping me understand the passage,
this method is a ___ out of 10 because ...

In terms of helping me remember or learn from the passage,
this method is a ___ out of 10 because ...

In terms of helping me respond to and apply the passage,
this method is a ___ out of 10 because ...



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Year 1

Unit 1 What Do I Do When Things Fall Apart?

Unit 2 What's the Covenant All About?

Unit 3 Who Is God?

Unit 4 Who Is Jesus?

Unit 5 Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Unit 6 What Is the Church?

Year 2

Unit 1 What Is Being a Christian All About?

Unit 2 What's with All the Rules?

Unit 3 Can't We All Just Get Along?

Unit 4 Who's Number 1?

Unit 5 Does What I Do Make a Difference?

Unit 6 What Do I Say When I Pray?

Year 3

Unit 1 Worship

Unit 2 Justice

Unit 3 Prayer

Unit 4 Stewardship

Unit 5 Bible Reading

Unit 6 Missional Living


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