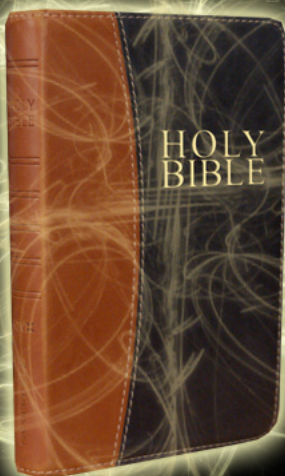


# TRANSFORMATION

THE BIBLE'S POWER TO CHANGE LIVES

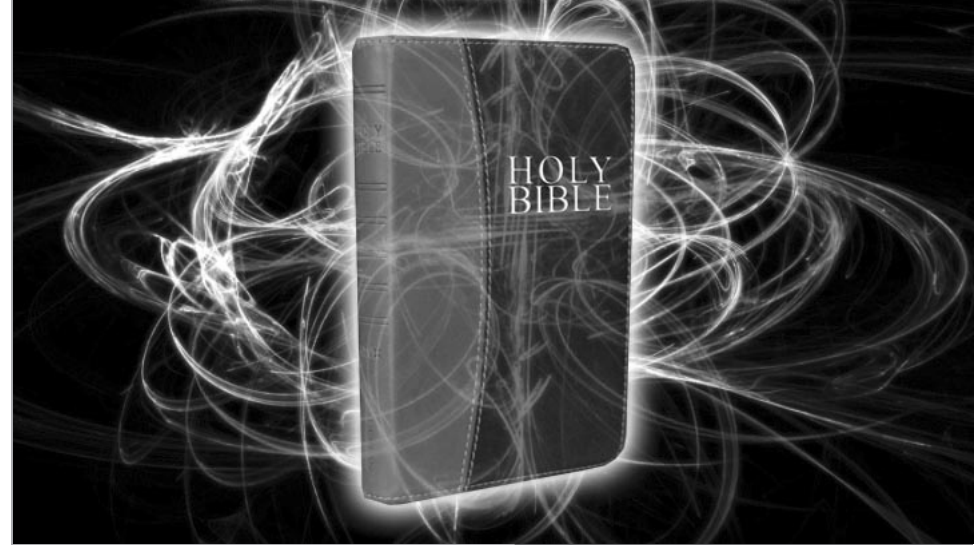


## BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

FOR PERSONAL AND  
SMALL GROUP STUDY

# TRANSFORMATION

THE BIBLE'S POWER TO CHANGE LIVES



**BIBLE  
STUDY  
GUIDE**

SPRING 2009



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church

## INTRODUCTION

*For some, the Bible sits on a bedside table collecting dust. For others, it's a book you flip through when you need a good "pick-me-up verse." But is that all it's good for? Not according to God! The scriptures make clear that the Bible is meant for so much more than just importing good morals — it's meant to powerfully transform our lives. Come along with us on our three-week journey to catch a glimpse of how we can experience the life-changing power of the Word of God.*

### Directions

There are four studies per week: one small group study and three personal studies. This time we are trying a new format where one of the personal studies includes a devotional thought to reflect over. The studies also include a prayer at the end. We encourage you to spend time in prayer and reflection in light of what God is speaking to you during your time in his word.

You can also download the PDF from our website, [www.ucov.com](http://www.ucov.com).

We would love to hear your feedback — what works, what doesn't, and suggestions and ideas for next time! May God bless you as you engage in his word!

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PERSONAL  
BIBLE STUDY  
QUESTIONS

**Read Psalm 119:1-16**

This Psalm is about the truth of God's word and the importance of staying true to him and his word.

1. What are the positive results of obeying God's law? What promise is implied in seeking the Lord wholeheartedly?
2. Based on this Psalm, how do you think you should read and study God's word?
4. What do you think it means to "have God's word in your heart?"
5. What about God's word from this Psalm speaks specifically to you? How can you apply what you have learned in the next few days and weeks?

**Romans 1:16-17; Romans 10:17**

These passages are about the connection between faith and the gospel—the Good News.

1. If all you knew about the gospel was from this passage, what would that gospel be?
2. Paul writes in verse 16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel." Why would the Roman Christians Paul is addressing expect him to be ashamed of the gospel? Are there things in or about the gospel you are ashamed of?
3. Faith is a word with many meanings. What does it mean to you? (Also see Matthew 24:25, Luke 7:2-10, Hebrews 11:1)
4. What other ways do people attempt to find eternal life/wholeness outside of Christ?
5. From Romans 10:17, what do we learn about the nature of faith?
6. What do you think are different ways you can "hear the message?"

WEEK 1

DAY 3

## 2 Peter 1:16-21

This passage is a statement on the inspiration of Scripture.

1. What difference does vs. 16 (and 17) make for you, in having confidence in the Scriptures?
2. What event of Jesus' life does Peter recall in vs. 16-18? (See Matthew 17:1-9)
3. What makes the prophetic message reliable (vs. 19-21)?
4. Why would it be important to know that our faith is grounded in history?
5. What difference could this make in your understanding of the Scriptures?

## Joshua 1:1-9

In the wake of Moses' death, this passage is the Lord's instruction to Joshua, Moses' assistant and successor.

1. What promises does the Lord give to Joshua?
2. Of these promises, what specific steps did the Lord instruct Joshua to take in order to be successful?
3. What did God say meditation on the book of the Law would accomplish?
4. What do you think God means here by "success?"
5. Which command given to Joshua would be the toughest for you to obey?
6. What do you learn from this passage about the transformative power of God's word?

SECOND WEEK

WEEK 2

DAY 1

WEEK 2

DAY 2

## Psalm 1: 1-6

This Psalm contrasts the lives of the faithful and faithless.

1. What are the “blessed” like and not like?
2. What do you think is the point of the tree comparison? And the chaff?
3. How do you think it’s possible to meditate day and night?
4. What does this psalm teach you about your spiritual discipline?
5. In what sense does the “righteous person” prosper?
6. What is the “law of the Lord” for you?
7. What specific steps can you take in the next few weeks to demonstrate your delight in what God wants you to do?

## Psalm 19:1-14

This is a Psalm about how God’s creation and his word reveal himself to us.

1. How do you think the “law of the Lord” and the heavens are similar in this Psalm?
2. What six names does David give the Jewish law?
3. What eight words describe this law?
4. What phrases describe its effect on our lives?
5. What does the revelation through Scripture do for us that the revelation in creation does not (v. 11)?
6. What power does God’s law have in the lives of his people?
7. What is the difference between the sins discussed in v. 12-13? What does God want our response to be?
8. What changes do you think you need to make to ensure that your thoughts and words are pleasing to God (v. 14)?

WEEK 2

DAY 3

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

This passage illustrates God's promise of a new life—physical and spiritual restoration.

The Hebrew word for wind, breath and spirit is *Ruach*. It uses the same word for each of those three English words.

1. How do you think the three (wind, breath and spirit) are related?
2. What strange sight was Ezekiel shown in his vision?
3. From this passage, what are the two steps in "raising the dead?"
4. What did God promise to do with those dry bones?
5. Why do you think it didn't happen all at once?
6. What did God explain to Ezekiel about the meaning of the vision of the "valley of dry bones?"
7. What does this passage teach you about the power of the word of God?

**Romans 12:1-2**

These verses talk about God's good, pleasing and perfect plans for each of us.

1. Why do you think God's mercy can motivate us to live for God?
2. What are some of the patterns of this world?
3. Of those patterns, which ones are you most tempted to conform to?
4. How do you think a Christian can renew his or her mind?
5. How do you think God's word can renew your mind?

## WEEK 3

### DAY 3

#### Hebrews 4:12-13

These verses talk about the power of God's word.

1. What makes God's word "living"?
2. Where has God's word revealed truth in your life?
3. What are some examples of how your thoughts have been shaped (or exposed) by God's word such that your actions changed?
4. Verse 13 reminds us of God's omniscience. Is that comforting or threatening? Why?

## SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

## II Timothy 3:10-17

This passage is one of Paul's instructions to Timothy, pastor of the church at Ephesus.

- 1. What do you learn about the Scriptures in this passage?
- 2. What do you think it means in vs. 15, "make you wise for salvation?"
- 3. What do you think it means for the Scriptures to be described as "God-breathed?"
- 4. What does this text say will happen to everyone who wants to live a godly life (v. 12)? Why do you think that is so?
- 5. When in your life have you ever been equipped by God's word (v.17)?
- 6. How have you dealt with/responded to situations where evil people and imposters flourish? How has it been the same/different from Paul's instruction in this passage?

## Isaiah 55:6-13

This passage is an invitation to the Lord's salvation.

- 1. Describe a time when you felt you couldn't find or call on God.
- 2. What does this prophecy say with respect to seeking God? As a result of reading this, do you think you need to change how you approach God?
- 3. If an evil person turns to God, what will God do for him or her?
- 4. How does God contrast his thoughts and ways with ours?
- 5. When is it helpful for you to remind yourself that God's ways are not your ways?
- 6. How is the message of God's word like snow and rain?
- 7. What kind of effect or results does God's word produce?
- 8. What encouragement does this passage from Isaiah give you about God's word?

## Matthew 4:1-11

This chapter of Matthew is the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

1. For each of the three temptations, answer the following questions:
  - a. What is its nature?
  - b. What potentially might appeal to Jesus?
  - c. What price would there be, were he to yield?
  - d. How does Jesus respond?
  
2. What can you learn about the "evil one?"
  
3. What do you learn about Jesus from this text?
  
4. What do you learn about the word of God?



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