

THE STOP, LOOK, LISTEN FAMILY BIBLE STUDY USER MANUAL

For use with individual Stop, Look, Listen Study Guides

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Welcome to the Wilderness!

Allow us to introduce ourselves as your fellow-travelers. We are the Gallagher family. God has called us into the Wilderness where we have no real alternative but to make His Word a priority.

We want to share some of the secrets of consistent Bible study which the Lord has used in our walk with Him. We certainly have no right to speak from a position of strength, our strength is only in the Lord. Nor do we have any desire to impress you with our limited knowledge of the Bible.

All we can really do is to place some tools in your hands as you travel further into the Wilderness armed with nothing else but your Bible.

The purpose of this guide is to help the reader relate the Bible to real life. It is impossible to communicate to others that which you haven't experienced yourself. The classic example is the Scopes trial where William Jennings Bryan was publicly humiliated in court as he tried to defend a Bible he hadn't read. Each one of us is on trial every day:

Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.

2 Corinthians 3:2

God is calling us all into the Wilderness where Paul, Moses, Elijah, David, Daniel, John the Baptist and Jesus spent much time. Come into the Wilderness with your Bible and listen while the Lord reveals His Word to you. Some will say, "But isn't it enough to know that we are saved? Why do we need to dig so deeply into the Bible?"

Answer: But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14

God doesn't use anyone greatly until He has tried them in the Wilderness. Wouldn't it be a good idea to keep track of what you are hearing there (Heb. 2:1) so that it will never be lost? He will surely hand pick you for assignments which take you out of the Wilderness into the Promised Land!

Many thanks are due to those who have patiently taught and guided us over the years: Dr. Robert Picirilli, Dr. Stanley Outlaw, Pastor Adolfo Robleto, Bryan Moore (the engineer behind *GodSpeed*), Pastor Joe Lambert, Rev. Bill Gothard, Pastor Woody Proffitt, Missionaries Archie and Sarah Mayhew.

Many others could be mentioned who were patient with us while we "practiced" being in the ministry, not to mention the many pastors and church members who trusted us to deliver the pure Word of God in spite of our weaknesses.

Finally, we pray that you will open your spirit to diligently inquire of the Lord. The answers you have been seeking may be just a couple of verses away. May God add His blessing as you seek to thoroughly understand His Word.

*Your Fellow-Travelers,
The Gallaghers
Daniel 12:3*

The Stop, Look, Listen approach to Bible study

The guide has been prepared to help families discover meaningful time in the Bible together. It was not designed for seminary students, although some students may find this material helpful. To quote from Goodrick's indispensable *Do it Yourself: Hebrew and Greek*,

The mortality rate for those studying original Bible languages is horrendous! Students spend enormous segments of time and energy memorizing vocabulary lists, declensions and conjugations, only to forget them in a few years through lack of use.

Goodrick says that what is needed is a halfway house for those who are climbing the mountain. This guide is intended to be a halfway house where climbers can find a place to collect their thoughts and prepare themselves to go further up the mountain.

This guide focuses on leading you to discover daily manna rather than teaching hermeneutics (the art of interpreting words). In any case, students of hermeneutics will be able to use this material as a foundation for their work.

Here are some more important ideas from Goodrick:²

Too often the Bible [he means to some people] is nothing more than a repository of doctrinal propositions supporting the already systematized theology of the student.

Goodrick goes on to say that a well-rounded approach to Scripture grows in an honest reader's mind as his understanding of the Word grows. He urges us not to only use the Bible to proof-text our favorite doctrines. This doesn't mean that the reader shouldn't have denominational distinctives. The problem comes when we don't think the Bible has anything else to say to us.

1 Cor. 2:14 reveals that Scripture is validated by your spirit. You may have a gifted mind which can research the original meaning but if the result fails to touch your spirit then you have not heard from God (2 Cor. 3:6). When you were saved, God personally convinced you that His Word was true. Is it possible He has more truth to teach you? Will He only teach it to those who read Hebrew and Greek?

We have based our studies on comparisons of the Bible text to specific categories of knowledge and wisdom. Learning to "compare spiritual things with spiritual" (1 Cor. 2:13) is the process of learning to compare one thing with another in order to discover if it has any spiritual application.

Hebrews 5:13 chides us for not being skillful in the Word. It says that understanding doctrine is just the beginning. We need to make a commitment to become intimately familiar with each book of the Bible. This is a different concept from a "read through the Bible in a year" calendar. There are great rewards waiting for anyone who will go through one book of the Bible, word by word (even if it takes months) until they have mastered that book.

Luther was mocked one day for not being a great scholar of the original languages. Luther answered this scorn by saying that there was truth in what his accuser said but that there was not one tree in the entire Bible which he had not shaken to see what would fall from the branches.

May God give us all that kind of determination! It really is a question of whether or not we believe that it is worthwhile to know this Book on such an intimate basis. Our assignment will have been accomplished if you find the things the Lord has hidden specifically for you in the book of James. We pray that the Lord will confirm those things you are about to discover in the mouth of two or three witnesses (passages).*

*for more on confirming truth with Scripture, see *rhema* in the category list.

Keeping a Record of the Journey

How much would it have meant to you if you had been given a personal notebook of Bible wisdom by your parents or grandparents? That may never have happened but here's your chance to make it happen for someone else.

This guide is a good way to get your family members started in keeping a record of the spiritual lessons they are learning.

It goes without saying that you (or someone you know) will face at least one major crisis in life. Deut. 8:2 shows us that this can happen to show us what is in our hearts.

You never know when someone is going to need to know something you have learned. It makes sense to have a place to put your notes so that you (or someone you love) can find them when that crisis shows up.

...and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Malachi 3:16

Wisdom [is] good with an inheritance.

Ecclesiastes 7:11

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

1 Peter 3:15

Why another Bible study guide?

The world says that the Bible is not relevant. They don't see any connection at all between the Bible and their daily lives. Our job is to prove to ourselves first, and then to others, that the Bible is accurate scientifically, historically, medically, etc.

You can use this knowledge to prepare an answer for people who are brought across your path. You will find that you have something to say that makes sense and causes people to take Christianity seriously.

That we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

2 Corinthians 1:4

...and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

Proverbs 11:25

Master Category List

Knowledge Categories



We have found it helpful to look for the following categories when attempting to understand any passage of Scripture. The first group we call the Knowledge Categories. These are the kinds of things that we all studied in school. Keep in mind that the world has been taught that these subjects can be used to disprove the Bible (see 1 Cor. 8:1).

Our goal is to prove the truth of these things for ourselves and to be ready to give an answer to skeptics that these categories validate the Bible, regardless of what they have been taught!

We have inserted some of these icons into the Bible text to get you started. You may want to draw some of your own in the margin in order to record an insight which we have overlooked.

Of course, there are other categories which could be listed, such as classic literature, biographies, character qualities, commands, etc. -add your own to the list!

As you are reading, ask yourself, "Are there any inscriptions, carvings, tablets or other evidence which provide background for the facts in this book?"

ARCHAEOLOGY



- You may want to research the so called "Ossary of James" -a burial box which was supposedly discovered in 2002. The inscription on the box said, "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus." This writing was found later to be a forgery and the "discovery" was proven to be a hoax.

This is a good example of why we need to be careful when researching topics which claim to give us "new" light on the Bible.

- The foundations of ancient synagogues have been uncovered in Israel. If you will research the objects found in these synagogues, you will learn a lot from items such as the "Seat of Moses."
- Find out where the pinnacle of the Temple was. What could you see from up there?

Archaeology books are filled with discoveries which confirm the Bible and no discovery has ever contradicted the Bible!

GEOGRAPHY



List the cities, regions or geographic features of each book. Take note of other Bible incidents which happened there. Look up the meaning of each name.

These locations are very significant because of what happened there. God continuously refers to locations in the Bible to illustrate His message to men. In many cases, it is impossible to understand a passage properly without knowing the geography behind the story.

For example...

James wrote to the scattered tribes of Israel. Here are some of the major locations of the Jewish *diaspora*:

Asia Minor, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Spain, Syria

HISTORY



To quote Goodrick again,

“Bible study is not so much the examination of a text as it is an examination of an historical event. The text you examine was addressed to somebody for some reason at some particular time and place.”

“That very real place, with those real people, creating very real history, must be understood before that book which contains them can be understood as it ought to be.”

Alphonse de Lamartine said, “History is neither more nor less than biography on a large scale.”

Can you find any history books available which can shed light on the book of James?

For example...

Read Josephus³ to get the full story on the murder of James. Hegesippus says that James lived according to a Nazarite vow, that he wore a linen garment and was often found on his knees praying alone in the Temple.

The Christian historian Eusebius called James the “Bulwark of the People.”

In older days, the laws of men have often been based on God's law. God's Law was given to show us what pleases God. The law is a tutor-servant who walks with us and brings us to Christ by convicting us of the things we have done which are offensive to God (Gal. 3:24). Jesus said He came to fulfill the Law (Mat. 5:17).

LAW



There are documented cases of people who were harassed by suicidal thoughts because they had violated a Law which required the death penalty and did not obtain a covering for that offense through the blood of Jesus.

For example...

And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear. Deut. 21:20-21

Make a note of every place where James refers to the Old Testament Law. Notice how often he contrasts it with Jesus' words of the New Covenant. Do you know of any passages where Jesus compared the two?

The Bible is filled with wisdom on how to avoid disease.

MEDICAL

For example...



I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I [am] the LORD that healeth thee.

Exodus 15:2

Scientists didn't discover it until 1961⁴ but God revealed to Moses that a baby's blood doesn't clot properly until it is eight days old.

Leviticus 12:3

Make a note of passages which describe a sickness unto death (John 11:4), a sickness of chastisement (1 Cor. 11:30) and a sickness to the glory of God (John 9:3).

Which one do you think James may be referring to in Chapter 5?

MUSIC



The evil spirits did not appreciate David's harp music and the Accuser will likewise leave when you have melodious music in your home.

The Bible is full of music! Keep an eye out for passages which have been used as lyrics in Christian hymns.

Compare James 5:13 to other passages which tell us to encourage each other with melodious music. See Eph. 5:19 and Col.3:16.

For example...

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. 1 Tim. 3:16

This passage is traditionally thought of as a hymn sung by the early church. Paul quoted it with the confidence that his readers would recognize it.

SCIENCE



Be alert to passages which supposedly "prove" that the Bible is scientifically inadequate. The Bible can hold its own and has never been proven to contain any scientifically invalid passages.

For example...

What about Cain's wife? Rabbits chewing their cud? Millions of years needed to prove evolution? Genetic mutation? etc. etc. etc.

The answers are in the Bible, and are also addressed in the *Stop, Look, Listen Bible* series. Keep reading! As you do your homework, unbelievers will be able to tell that you have carefully researched and validated your answers.

Can you think of any examples from the world of science which teach us the kind of patience spoken of in the book of James?



Wisdom Categories

This second group we call the Wisdom categories. These are the kinds of things we need to build up our spirits rather than our minds (see 1 Cor. 2:14).

APOLOGETICS

Apologetics is the science of refuting those who claim that the Bible is full of errors.



Over thousands of years (and who knows how many scribes and copyists) some scribal errors have been found in various manuscripts.

However, there are no scribal errors which affect the doctrines of the Bible. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1948, the 2000 year old scroll of Isaiah validated the accuracy of our previous copies of Isaiah.

For example...

- James 4:5 appears to be quoting a non-existent Old Testament reference. Check out the possibilities for yourself so that you are ready to give an answer on this apparent discrepancy.
- James 5:3 seems to be saying that gold can rust until you check the original language.
- James 5:17 seems to have added six months to the story of Elijah's drought until you acquaint yourself with Hebrew idioms.

Most scribal errors in the Bible are corrected by sister passages, others are explained by cultural, scientific, grammatical or historical investigation so we aren't left wondering what the answer is.

There are plenty of so-called "experts" who use these scribal errors to tear down the doctrine of the inerrancy of the Scriptures. Don't make yourself look like a fool by trying to defend a textual variant.

BLESSINGS



The Bible makes a point of showing the effects of a father's blessing (or lack thereof) on his children's lives. Be careful to take notice of God's blessings and how to obtain them.⁵

Make a note of how blessings were given in Bible families. Pray the words of an appropriate verse of Scripture over each family member as you close your family Bible time.

Pray that these words will become real in their lives.

"I wish above all things that Johnny/Susie may prosper and be in health, even as his/her soul prospers." 3 John 1:2

Track down any blessings which are mentioned in the book of James. What does James say will happen when we bless God but fail to bless others as Jesus commanded us? Mat. 5:44

CROSS-REFERENCES



Always ask yourself, "Has this concept been alluded to or illustrated elsewhere in the Bible?" You will notice that babies and geniuses learn by comparing one thing to another. Graduate students are given the Miller Analogies Test to measure their ability to match something they have learned with something they are unfamiliar with.

Sometimes you will need to go bed thinking on this and may find it coming back to your thoughts all day long. If you persevere (Prov. 2:1-5) the answer will come. This is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have in your Bible study.

2 Peter 1:20 tells us that no Scripture is of its own interpretation. Peter was telling us that if we see some meaning in a passage then we should confirm that truth with the witness of other Scriptures.

We would be wise to examine every word in Scripture so that we "rightly divide" what we are reading (2 Tim. 2:15).

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched [examined] the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Acts 17:11

Search [examine] the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. John 5:39

We base sound doctrine on the Words of Christ. When sound doctrine is taught people give their lives to Christ. When the commandments of men are taught in place of doctrine, Christians and non-Christians alike are confused.

DOCTRINE



Here are some of the major doctrines of the Christian faith:

- Mankind was created in God's image.
- Adam's sin brought depravity on mankind
- Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- Jesus was born of a virgin.
- Jesus' death paid the penalty for our sins.
- Jesus Christ rose from the dead.
- Jesus is coming again to receive His own.
- The Bible is the inerrant Word of God.
- God is three persons in one Being.

How many of these does the book of James refer to?

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, [even] the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings.

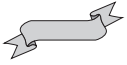
1 Timothy 6:3-4

*But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.
Mat. 15:9*

If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. John 7:17

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 2 Tim. 4:3

GOD'S NAME



The name of God used in a given passage is one of the keys to understanding it. You will grasp the emphasis as you begin to visualize why one particular name is used over another. The same is true when you study passages where God changes a person's name and contrasts it with their old name.

The Names of God⁶

Jehovah-Jireh: God who provides

Jehovah-M'Kaddesh: God who sanctifies

Jehovah-Nissi: God is my Banner

Jehovah-Rohi: God my Shepherd

Jehovah-Rophe: God of Healing

Jehovah-Shalom: God of Peace

Jehovah-Shammah: God who is always there

Jehovah-Tsidkenu: God of Righteousness

Adonai: Lord

Christ: Anointed One

Many other titles could be added: *Ancient of Days, Prince of Peace, Lion of Judah*, etc. Look for an unusual title found in James chapter 5.

JESUS



We use this category to track any reference to Jesus, including passages which remind us of His sayings. Jesus is referred to as the Word (John 1:1) and He can be found throughout the Scriptures.

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:27

Christ is also found throughout the Bible as the Rock, the Spring of Living Water, the Word, the Manna, the Brazen Serpent, the Red Heifer, the Scapegoat and dozens of other examples.

There are also several people who are called types of Christ. This is because their lives contained some aspect of the life of Christ. Joseph is a type of Christ. Also, look for "Christophanies" which are appearances of Jesus in the Old Testament.

Notice the words James uses to describe Jesus. How many times does he call Him Lord? What does Lord mean? Did you discover the passage which James called Jesus' Royal Law?

PRAYER

There is no better way to learn how to pray than to study the prayers of the Bible! A careful study of the prayers in the Bible will show you that the answer to a prayer is directly related to the words used in the prayer. This is why Jesus taught us specifically how to pray.



Make a note of any prayers you find in the book of James. Since James was known as a man of prayer, there are plenty of insights on the power of prayer in this letter.

Find of examples of prayers which ask God to meet physical needs.

List some prayers asking for protection.

How did Bible characters ask God to change His mind?

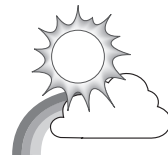
How did they ask for God's favor?

Did God answer the prayer?

- Look for practical tips which James gives us on how to pray and how not to pray.
- God wants us to pray specifically. James 4:2-3
- What is the prayer of faith in James 5:15? Compare this with Rom. 14:23 and Psa. 66:18.

PROMISES

Look for "covenants" in the Bible. Many Bible scholars have devoted their lives to tracing God's dealings with His people to covenants that were made. "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9:13



For example

Look for passages in the book of James where God says He will do something. That's a promise!

Promises always have two sides: "if you do this, I will do that." What happens if we don't keep our promises, does God still keep His? To God, a promise is a promise, is a promise!

PROPHECY



Prophetic Words

There are many occasions in Scripture where God gave someone a prophetic word which predicted that certain events would happen – and they happened! This is important because it shows that these prophecies were accurate and as such they validate the inerrancy of the Bible.

Cursed [be] the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest [son] shall he set up the gates of it.

Compare Joshua 6:26 with 1 Kings 16:34

Although 1 Corinthians 12:8 is still in the Bible, we might as well mention that there are some folks out there today who falsely claim to have the ability to utter prophetic words.

There are even so called “christian” mind-readers and fortune tellers making merchandise out of the body of Christ. Deut. 18:22 gives a clear-cut answer to people who presume to speak in the name of the Lord but are in fact speaking from their own imagination.

Messianic Prophecies

These are passages which foretold the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ. People are fascinated by the fulfillment of prophecy and they will be especially interested when you show them prophecies which Jesus fulfilled. Here are some examples:

... they pierced my hands and my feet. Psalm 22:16

So they weighed for my price thirty [pieces] of silver. Zechariah 11:12

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: Daniel 9:26

Eschatological Prophecies

Don't be afraid of this big word – it just refers to things which will happen in the last days. No one knows the day or the hour of the Lord's return. See Mat. 24:26. Even John Calvin refrained from writing on the book of Revelation because he said he didn't understand it.

Our particular view of eschatology is not an essential element of the Christian faith – other than the fact that Christ is coming again! There are also current events in Israel which are foreshadowed by passages such as Isaiah 11, Ezekiel 37-39 and Jeremiah 51.

Can you discover any passages where James seems to be referring to public prophetic teaching or a prophetic event?

PROVERBS

There are dozens of people in the book of Proverbs who illustrate good and bad character qualities.



Once you discern the traits of these characters they give you greater insight into the biographies of Scripture.

James has been called the “Proverbs of the New Testament.” A careful inspection will reveal many passages in the book of James which remind us of the book of Proverbs.

- You can learn more about Esau when you compare Prov. 12:27 and Gen. 25:30
- It is fascinating to see a Proverb put into action the way Abigail did. See Prov. 15:1 and 1 Sam. 25:23-31.
- Read Psa. 51 and make a note of the year of suffering David spent agonizing over his sin. Compare this with Prov. 24:16.
- Josiah was a good king but lost his life because he did not understand the wisdom of Prov. 26:17 (see 2 Chr. 35:20).
- Joseph lived out Prov. 11:26 by using his wisdom and compassion (Gen. 47:25) to provide for the people.

Proverbs People

Look for these people all through the Bible. Here's a short list:

Adulterer
Angry Man
Fool
Froward (Perverse) Man
Greedy
Liar
Scorner
Simple
Slothful
Strange Woman
Wicked

There are some good examples as well:

Righteous
Self-controlled
Unselfish
Wise

RHEMA



God chose the Greek language to convey the New Testament because of its precise use of words. There are precise meanings for the Greek concept of a word. The words *logos* and *rhema* reveal a lot about a passage when you understand the difference in their usage.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary⁷

"The significance of *rhema* (as distinct from *logos*) is exemplified in the injunction to take 'the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God', (Ephesians 6:17); here, the reference is not to the whole Bible as such, but to the individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in time of need, a prerequisite being the regular storing of the mind with Scripture."

The word *logos* is used to describe a conception of thought as well as to present one of the titles of the Son of God.

The word *rhema* is used to show that God spoke to someone in a personal way.

In the beginning was the *logos*,
and the *logos* was with God,
and the *logos* was God.

John 1:1

Peter remembered the *rhema* of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Matthew 26:75

Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy *rhema*. Luke 1:38

But Mary kept all these *rhemas*, and pondered [them] in her heart. Luke 2:19

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every *rhema* that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4

Highlighting a *rhema* may mean that you have been tested in a particular area and have some confidence that you have passed the test.

Or, it may mean that you want to mark a passage which God used to speak to you in a personal way. The purpose here is to pass it on as a legacy to someone else.

Unfortunately, untaught believers have misused the concept of a personal word from God to justify things they imagine they should do and have used this as a means of appearing deeply spiritual.

RHEMA

They have not been taught how to take every thought captive (2 Corinthians 10:5). They have not been taught to try the spirits (1 John 4:1). They have not been taught to confirm every truth in the mouth of two or three witnesses (Mat. 18:16).



Don't let the foolishness of some believers rob you of the experience of God's word speaking to you personally.

Remember, our view of the word *rhema* is not an essential of the Christian faith. Let's be careful how we instruct others on issues which are not prerequisite to orthodox doctrine.

My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. James 3:1

If your previous teaching doesn't leave room for this understanding of *rhema*, you might prefer to refer to verses that have spoken to your spirit as "my favorite verses" or "verses that everybody ought to know."

Just don't miss the fact that God's Words are "spirit and life" (John 6:63) and can leap off the pages of your Bible and have a personal application to your life. Heb. 4:12

Pay attention to what God may be showing you as you study the book of James. Ask God to show you any related Bible stories or passages which will make this book clear to you.

Do you know of any Bible characters who showed favor to the rich as James warned against in Chapter 2?

Has God brought concepts from this book across your path? For example, have you met anyone who is like a fountain which flows with dirty and clean water at the same time? (Jam. 3:11)

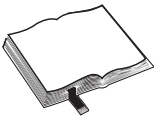
Keep looking for anything which will reveal this book to you. As you fall asleep, meditate on verses you can remember from James. God will show you what you should do about what you have learned.

The Guided Tour

Step 1 - Underline or highlight key words!

Read a chapter as if you had just received a love letter from the Person you love the most. The best way we have found to open up a chapter is to start by underlining repetitive words.

Another helpful habit is to highlight key words such as the names of God along with other names of people or places, etc. Here are some suggestions to consider when highlighting key words in your Bible. Of course, you can use any color combinations you want to!



Highlight references to Jesus in Red.

Highlight names of people in Green.

Highlight names of places in Blue.

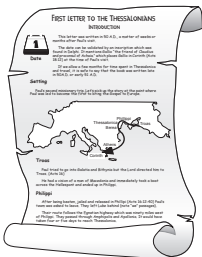
Highlight personal insights in Yellow.

Highlight prophecies in Purple.

Highlight references to the Old Testament in Orange.



Step 2 - Study the background!



Read the **Introduction Sheet**. These sheets are designed to save you the trouble of researching the background of the book.

This will help you to relate what you are reading to the events going on at the time the book was written.

A compilation of dozens of Bible Encyclopedias, Bible dictionaries, web sites, commentaries, text evidence and every reference imaginable has been condensed into a few pages for you.

Remember, we are only here to get you started, soon you'll be doing your own research and discovering insights and facts that we have missed.



Step 3 - Using the Study Sheets

You will notice that there are half-sheets at the beginning of every chapter. Some versions of this guide require you to cut or fold the half-sheets so that you can use them side-by-side with the Bible text.



Use the **Stop** sheet to list key words and word studies. This is also a good place to answer the questions: Who?, What?, Where?, When? and Why?



The **Look** sheet reminds you of other passages where the material found in the chapter is revealed. It is often said (and very true) that the Bible is the best commentary on the Bible!

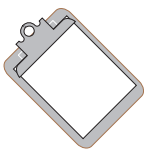
One of the best ways to get insight is to ask yourself, "Has anything like this happened somewhere else in the Scriptures?"



The **Listen** sheet prompts you to ask God to reveal the things in this chapter which apply to you. Use this sheet to come up with some ideas to bring your study to a conclusion.



The **Focus** sheet is where you will find background information on any Knowledge or Wisdom categories discovered in the chapter.



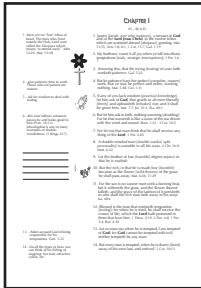
The Study Sheets are for your personal use. The **Worksheet** is a condensed version for use with groups. A good way to get a group involved is to begin the lesson with the sample skit found at the back of this book. Match assignments to those in the group who are best able to handle the job.

You may also want to photocopy the sample newspaper pages for handouts. Divide students into groups of reporters who are "on assignment" to report on two or three of the major topics covered in the chapter. Encourage them to come up with ideas for Want Ads, Lost & Found, etc.

As an alternative, give them a microphone and ask them to report the news on Jerusalem's Channel 7, station WOW. Don't forget commercials for "used camels" etc. Smaller students will love doing this from inside a cardboard box with the bottom cut out and knobs and dials drawn on the front. The audience will love passing the "remote" around and changing the channel or muting the news.

Younger people might be asked to do something easy such as counting how many times a particular word is found in the chapter. Another student could be asked to take a look at the Focus sheet and explain how it relates to what you are studying.

Step 4 - Add your own notes



The Bible Study pages display the KJV text with alternate translations and basic cross references. You might want to photocopy these pages for group handouts or show students how to include notes in the margins of their Bibles.

There are some notes included in order to jump-start your investigation of the chapter.

Don't forget that the whole idea of this guide is to provide a place for you to keep a record of what you discover. There is plenty of space provided for your own notes.

Try drawing lines between opposite ideas to make them stand out. This is also useful for pinpointing other related concepts, such as what words like “therefore” are referring to. Often, you will discover a *chiasm* (the letter Chi looks like an X in Greek) which reveals two concepts being contrasted.

11. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

12. Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

Finding your way around in the Bible text

- The King James Version is used because it lends itself to textual comparison.
- The space alongside of the Bible text is for your notes.
- Old Testament references are highlighted, like this.
- Exhaustive cross-references have purposely been left out so that you can add your own. Many Bibles list only general references. Look for passages that illustrate what is happening in the chapter.
- Alternate translations are inserted in the text [*like this*]. We have tried to especially spotlight any cognates or English words which are similar to their Greek derivatives.
- References to God are bolded, like this: **Lord Jesus Christ**
- You may want to cut or fold the category half-sheets on the dotted line provided so that you can see the Bible text alongside of the categories.
- A list of the resources used (as well as footnote references) can be found at the back of this study guide.

Basic Suggestions for Learners and Teachers

You will, of course, want to go through all the material yourself before sharing it with anyone else. Here are some ideas that have worked for us:

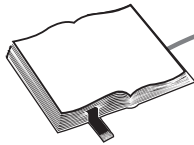
- Start out by reading a Bible chapter a few times until your eyes begin to spot repetitive words and ideas. Underline those words (we haven't underlined them all so that you can find some of them on your own). Quite often, the most repeated word is a key to the chapter.
- Read the introductory material provided at the beginning of the book of James.
- Never skip over hard words (like *upbraideth*) without finding out what they mean. Look for alternate translations in the *New American Standard* version, the *New King James*, the *NET Bible* or the *Amplified Bible*.
- Go through the categories (listed in the next section) and ask yourself if any of the concepts in the chapter can be illustrated historically, scientifically, medically, etc. You absolutely must relate Scripture to life or you will just be reading words.
- Make up your mind that there is something in the chapter that can speak to your life. If you don't apply what you learn and purpose to act on it then you are wasting your time. See James 1:23-25
- Now you are ready to share what you have learned with others. You will have better results if you lead your family or group into a discussion of the chapter rather than giving all the answers away. Assign helpers to look up cross-references and assist with skits or projects. Ask little ones to color a picture (you may photocopy the pictures in the back of the book) which illustrates the lesson and to tell you what they think about the material covered. Include everybody.
- Keep it short! We've included a lot of material in these pages. If your audience is losing interest then stop and pick up from there next time. It might be best at that point to wrap up the lesson by asking one of the questions from the Listen page.

Find a way for your audience to take something away from the class. Show them how they can begin a journal of the things they are learning or how to make meaningful notes in the margins of their Bibles.

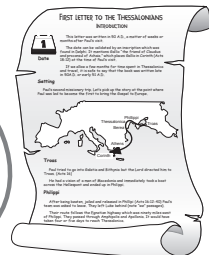
Don't let this be the end of the story. Pray for each one by name (before and after class) that God will use what they have learned to speak into their lives.

Your path to meaningful Bible study

Read the chapter three times and underline key words...



Read the **Introduction**...



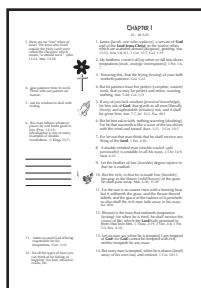
Use the **Worksheet** to assign projects to the group...



Look for any cross-references or places where similar ideas are illustrated in other books of the Bible...



Read the **Focus** sheet to discover major categories found in the chapter...



Add your own notes or discoveries to the **Bible Study** pages...

Use the **Listen Sheet** to ask God, "How does any of this apply to me?"



How to Saturate Yourself in Scripture



Underline Repeated Words

Often the Holy Spirit uses two or three witnesses to confirm His words.

JAMES

CHAPTER TWO

1. My brethren, have not the faith of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, the **Lord** of glory, with respect of persons. Acts 10:34
2. For if there come unto your assembly [*synagogue*] a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; Luke 15:2, 16:19-21
3. And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay [*brilliant*] clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Luke 11:43, 14:7-11
4. Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?
5. Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not **God** chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?
6. But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?
7. Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? Mat. 25:45
8. If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, *Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself*, ye do well: Lev. 19:18, Mat. 19:19, 22:40, Gal. 5:14

Drawing a line between contrasting concepts or phrases makes the purpose of the chapter stand out vividly.

LISTEN! and Apply Truth



If you don't apply what you are reading and act on it, you are just reading words. Ask questions: "Do I treat people equally?"

LOOK! for Sister Passages



Ask yourself, "Has anything like this been illustrated somewhere else in the Scriptures? Highlight Old Testament quotes.

Focus on Wisdom



Look for Doctrine, History, Science, Laws, Biographies, Promises, Blessings, Prayers, Prophecies, and meanings of words.



Warfare Prayer

Put on God's Armor as you pray. Pray specifically against Satan's work in your life. Take back any ground you have given to him. Invite God to reveal anything else you need to know about this passage.

Fall asleep at night asking Him to show you how this chapter fits into the rest of Scripture.

Am I Forgiven?

- **Prepare yourself for Spiritual Warfare**
- **Take back ground Satan is using to torment you**
- **Defeat your doubts and fears**

This **free** little booklet has been collected from the notes of Archie and Sarah Mayhew. The Mayhews spent many years in Ivory Coast, Africa. They learned unique skills which can open the Scripture so that it can be applied to areas such as assurance of salvation. Do you know someone who is not sure they are saved? Do you know someone who thinks that God has given up on them? This book is worth its weight in gold. Get some copies to hand out everywhere you go.

Here's the first page of Chapter One...

Satan's First Attack

"You never were saved in the first place!"

There are five basic ways that the devil attacks people and once you know how he attacks and see the answer to those attacks, you will be strengthened.

This is the first way that the devil attacks.

"You never were saved in the first place. Your experience with the Lord was not the same as that of others. You are not born again."

So begins the heartbreak and confusion that Satan so dearly loves because he knows that it will hinder your service for God. A good brother or sister will stand up in a testimony service and say, "If you doubt your salvation, you are not saved."

Well, let's look in the Scriptures to see if that statement is true or not.

*Notice that phrase:
"but some doubted."
Once you understand that
doubts are normal, you will not
need to fear your doubts.*

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

*And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.
Matthew 28:16-17*

It is comforting when you realize that the Apostles of the Lord, who had walked with Him for three years, still had doubts. The most well-known of these, of course, was Thomas. Folks have rebuked Thomas for doubting and sometimes they rebuke others for doubting, but Jesus did not rebuke him.

The Gallagher Gazette

2005 A.D.

Summer

Friday morning we held devotions at St. Edward's Preparatory School. This was especially exciting because we were told of something special the Lord had done there recently. It seems that the school had planned to have a Teacher Appreciation Day but something happened so that it could not work out. The 4th through 6th graders decided that something must be done so they came to school at 6:30 am that morning to fast and pray for their teachers instead!!!

After four years as a Christian school teacher I would have to say that I'd never heard of something like this before. I wish our Christian schools had this sacrificial attitude. I've noticed that people who have nothing tend to be more compassionate than those who have everything.

We moved on to open a clinic at Canterbury. Kerry Russell showed up as the clinic was closing. His Rastafarian friends had carried and pushed his wheelchair uphill through the narrow alleys between the sheds. This is a place you don't want anyone to know you are from. It is a valley with only one entrance and filled with corrugated tin buildings which have been tacked on to each other. Kerry had been gunshot and explained to me that it was the fault of the whites and the police. When I reminded him that he was not shot by a white man nor a policeman, he said it didn't matter because the police drive by daily and shoot at his "Rasta" brothers.



I told him that this was not my first trip to Jamaica and that I know the police department intimately and that he could not make me believe a lie. He said that my God was a liar and that the police only seek to kill the people. I told him that his god was lying to him and that I would have a policeman call him and offer to help him with anything he needed. He told me, "We're gonna see because they will never call me."

He gave me his phone number and left. The next day I was able to get ahold of Corporal Stirling who immediately called him and offered to help. Now whose God is a liar? Pray that Kerry will listen to the truth. I met a couple who have made Canterbury their priority and they are following up with Kerry.

Saturday

Our next clinic was at Bogue Hill Baptist Church. Two things stand out to me: first, an old woman stood at the doorway for hours smiling at me. She had seen the sign that said we could take no more patients and could only hope that her smile would help her gain entrance. You can only ignore the face of an angel for so long. After I got caught up on prescriptions, I asked her what I could do for her. She told me she could not eat or sleep and that her stomach hurt. I felt the Lord impressing me to ask her if there was anything bad going on at home.

Monica immediately grabbed me and hugged me shouting, "God has sent you to me! How did you know that? God has sent you!" We were able to pray and take back ground she had given to the deceiver and I gave her detailed instruction on how to stop being a "fixer" and surrender her home to the Lord Jesus Christ. She wouldn't let go of me for awhile, telling me how much she loved me and how God had sent me. Needless to say I was a basket-case for awhile.

There was no time to waste as a young girl named Judy had been looking at me through the window all day long and her eyes were getting desperate. She finally showed me the palms of her hands and revealed first degree burns and shreds of skin hanging loose.

Dear God, how she had stood there so patiently, feeling unworthy to ask for help. I snuck her into the doctor and God heard my prayer because he prescribed Furacin which was used in Vietnam to heal napalm burns.

It is a miracle drug. I showed Judy how to keep the wound clean and change the bandages. She will have her hands back in a month or so but came close to losing them to gangrene.



Sunday

I had not told anyone but the Lord of my great desire to preach at Pitfour Gospel Chapel. I wanted Him to confirm it. When we go we defer to the respected preachers who come with us and allow them to preach. I secretly thanked God that nobody thought of inviting them to Pitfour. I was speaking to a pastor who mentioned that he was going to preach at Pitfour on Sunday morning and asked me if I would like to come along. I said, "Yes!" He then asked if I would like to preach on Sunday morning there. God is so good.

During the service, I asked the people if they would commit themselves to serious Bible study. Three hands went up. I spoke to them of how Jesus was passing by and acting as if He would go a little further (as at Emmaus and when He walked on the water). I told them that He is suggesting they follow Him to a deeper walk in the Word. I said I would not press the issue but that if anyone wanted to begin the journey, there would be study sheets available after the service upon request. I was swamped by kids and adults afterwards and there were just enough copies for everyone!!!

Monday

We held a clinic at a new village called Cornwall Court. Later we held an open-air service and my habit is to stand in the street and engage passersby in conversation, inviting them to come in. The streets were strangely empty so I began walking the neighborhood with my partner, Isaac. We finally found the local hangout and got into a conversation with Garnett.



"So I hear there are a lot of bad guys around here?"

"No, mon, dey all be up on the hill. Dey come down, rob, go back."

"So you aren't one of the bad guys? You are a good guy?"

"Yah mon!"

"Can I ask you a few questions to make sure you are a good guy?"

"Sure, mon."

"Have you ever lied, stole anything, taken God's name in vain, lusted or dishonored your parents?" (shortened version)

In a few minutes, Garnett saw his need for a Savior and was born into the Kingdom of Light! I brought him to the pastor and Garnett mentioned that he had been watching this church for weeks and that he would be attending on Wednesday night. Pray for Garnett to stay close to the Lord and the brethren.

Tuesday

We visited the interior of the island. Dr. Sam Wooldridge (formerly of MAF) estimated the cost of development and explained various things (clinic, dorm, housing, hydroponic gardening) which could be done in the area. Sam teaches jungle survival and has traveled the world helping to find investors and assistance for missionaries.

Wednesday

I was invited to visit my friends at the police station. Little did I know what would transpire! Superintendent of Police Ivan Brown (who lost both arms in a machete attack years ago) asked if there was anything they could do to assist me. I mentioned there were some people whom I had met on the last trip who needed various things and one who was on the verge of salvation. He assigned Corporal Carlton Stirling (one of my favorite people in the world) a four-wheel drive land rover and gave him the commission to carry out my orders. I had secretly prayed this would happen but didn't want to be the one who pushed it.

Carlton and I drove up and down many dangerous hills looking for the cryptic addresses I had. People began to offer to throw stones at the police jeep and cursed us as we drove by. Everyone we asked for directions played dumb because they don't want to be tagged as informers (this is because they assumed we were there to arrest someone).

We finally found Althia (an unwed mother) next door to a fruit stand whose owner had just sworn there was no such person in the area. Althia has been writing us for two years telling us she doesn't understand salvation. Long story short, Althia and Karl (her live-in partner) gave their lives to Christ and promised me they would soon be married. I directed them to Pitfour church and told them there will be a nice wedding present waiting.

The grand climax was next!!! We had been searching for Heather (the one who works on the Logos ship and has badly needed a mattress) all day long. Carlton had to attend to some police business and we decided to leave the money for the mattress with someone and call it a day. I got back to my hotel room and cried out to the Lord, "Father, Heather really needs this mattress. Please help me find her, someone else may not get the job done." The phone rang as I was praying.

"Jimmy? This is Heather! I just got your letter (sent a month ago) saying that you are coming! I have been so discouraged, but today I have been skipping through the streets showing your letter to everyone "

This was only the beginning. The mattress cost was \$13,900.00 (\$242.00 USD) Carlton tried to negotiate in Patois for a cheaper price. No way. He called friends who knew the owners. No luck. The store was closing soon and there was nobody who could authorize a discount. I asked Carlton to count my bundle of US and Jamaican bills and breathed a prayer, kicking myself for buying a phone card and some coffee for friends in the states. I couldn't believe it when Carlton said, "\$240.00." I looked through my wallet and found two single dollar bills and laid them in his hands. Yesssssssss!!!! We got it!!!



I wish you could have seen Heather skipping around the store with her hands in the air shouting, "Thank you Jesus!"

In our early years we were taught that only certain people are "called" to be missionaries. We have discovered that God can provide a covering and the right circumstances so that anyone who is willing can go.
Pray about going with us!

Contact us at jimmy@stoplooklistenbible.com for information on how you can be involved in a future mission trip.

www.stoplooklistenbible.com

Come visit us on the web!

There's something here for everybody:

- ***The Story of how we got our Bible*** •
- ***How to Repair Relationships*** •
- ***How to know you are forgiven*** •
- ***How to prepare for Spiritual Warfare*** •
- ***Bible Study Methods*** •
- ***Free booklets and tracts to download*** •
- ***Free downloadable Study Guides*** •
- ***Mission trips*** •

Check out our forums and share what you are learning from the Bible with the rest of us.

A Safe Haven for Kids

The Bible Marker Club

Downloadable skits and projects.

Join the club and meet new friends
from all over the world.

The Stop, Look, Listen Bible Blog

<http://stoplooklistenbible.blogspot.com>

Join other Bible-lovers as we attempt to pool the insights we are gaining into an online database of wisdom.

What would it be like if Christians from all over the world got together and had an online Bible study?

What if they were able to research a passage together and assemble the results into a downloadable form that others could continue to polish?

Are you ready to shake every branch in these sixty-six books?
Then come join us -and welcome aboard!

Ordering our Materials

The study materials on this site were created to equip you to understand Scripture. They were NOT created to make money.

Our materials can be downloaded freely in Acrobat PDF format so that you and our friends overseas can have instant access to quality resources.

We also offer printed copies at cost. Some of the material has been printed in paperback form and we have to pay the printer for each copy. Other material is printed on our printer and held together with plastic spiral binding. The cost of shipping and binding is built into the suggested donation amount.

Every donation helps us to hand out free material overseas. We are trying to find a way to get quality Bible material into the hands of those who need it. Our challenge is to do this as economically as possible.

Resource Materials

James: Stop, Look, Listen (Paperback) \$20.00 (GBC Binding) \$15.00

Am I Forgiven? Combating Intruding Thoughts Booklet \$4.00

Israel Locations & Related Scriptures Booklet \$4.00

Warfare Counseling & Discipleship (GBC Binding) \$10.00

Individual Bible Study Workbooks (GBC Binding)

Large [over 25 chapters] Study Guides -specify which book: Genesis, etc. \$25.00

Small Study Guides (specify which book: Matthew, etc.) \$20.00

Thank You!

The Gallagher Family
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