



SPIRITUAL GROWTH & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT BIBLE STUDY PLAN THOURGH THE GOSPELS, PAUL'S LETTERS, AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

This guide was given to me by God to help others learn how to study the bible to grow spiritually and develop a deeper relationship with Christ. Begin in the book of John and follow the guide down each column until you finish. From there, move into the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

John

Purpose: To prove conclusively that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in him will have eternal life.

2 Corinthians

Purpose: To affirm Paul's ministry as an apostle, and refute the false teachers in Corinth.

Colossians*

Purpose: To combat errors in the church & to show that believers have everything they need in Christ.
*written from prison

2 Timothy*

Purpose: To give final instructions & encouragement to Timothy, pastor of the church in Ephesus.
*written from prison

James*

Purpose: To expose hypocritical practices & to teach how Christians should live.
*Written by James, Jesus' Brother.

2 John*

Purpose: To emphasize the basics of following Christ-truth & love - & to warn against false teachers.
*Written by the Apostle John

Acts

Purpose: To give an accurate account of the birth & growth of the Christian church.
• Peter's Ministry
• Paul's Ministry

Galatians

Purpose: To refute the Judaizers (who taught that Gentile believers must obey the Jewish law in order to be saved) & to call Christians to faith & freedom in Christ.

1 Thessalonians

Purpose: To strengthen the Thessalonian Christians in their faith & give them assurance of Christ's return.

Titus*

Purpose: To advise Titus in his responsibility of supervising the churches on the island of Crete.
*Likely written while a prisoner

1 Peter*

Purpose: To offer encouragement to suffering Christians.
*Written by Peter

3 John*

Purpose: To commend Gaius for his hospitality & encourage him in his Christian life.
*Written by the Apostle John

Romans

Purpose: To introduce Paul to the Romans & present the heart of his message before his arrival in Rome.

Ephesians

Purpose: To strengthen the believers in Ephesus in their Christian faith by explaining the nature & purpose of the church, the body of Christ.
*written from prison

2 Thessalonians

Purpose: To clear up the confusion about the second coming of Christ.

Philemon*

Purpose: To convince Philemon to forgive his runaway slave, Onesimus, & to accept him as a brother in the faith.
*written from prison

2 Peter*

Purpose: To warn Christians about false teachers & to exhort them to grow their faith & to knowledge of Christ.
*Written by Peter

Jude*

Purpose: To remind the church of the need for constant vigilance - to keep strong in their faith & to oppose heresy.
*Written by Jude, John & Jesus' brother.

1 Corinthians

Purpose: To identify problems in the Corinthian church, to offer solutions, & to teach the believers how to live for Christ in a corrupt society.

Philippians*

Purpose: To thank the Philippians for the gift they had sent & to strengthen these believers by showing them that true joy comes from Jesus Christ alone.
*written from prison

1 Timothy*

Purpose: To encourage & teach Timothy, a young leader.
*written while a prisoner

Hebrews*

Purpose: To present the sufficiency & superiority of Christ.
*The author is unknown, but Paul is one person thought to have written it.

1 John*

Purpose: To reassure Christians in their faith & to counter false teachings.
*Written by the Apostle John

Revelation*

Purpose: To reveal the full identity of Jesus Christ and to give warning and hope to believers.



COMPARISON OF THE FOUR GOSPELS

All four Gospels present the life and teachings of Jesus, but each book focuses on a unique facet of Jesus and his character. To understand more about the specific characteristics of Jesus, read any of the four gospels.*

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
PERSON OF JESUS	The Promised King	The Servant of God	The Son of Man	The Son of God
ORIGINAL READERS	Jews	Gentiles/Romans	Greeks	Christians throughout the world
SIGNIFICANT THEME	Jesus as the Messiah, the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy	Jesus backing up his words with action	Jesus as fully God but also fully human	Belief in Jesus as a requirement for salvation
WRITER'S PERSPECTIVE	Teacher	Storyteller	Historian	Theologian
GREATEST EMPHASIS	Jesus' sermons and words	Jesus' miracles and action	Jesus' humanity	The principles of Jesus' teaching