

THE 28th.LIFE

THE SPARK

MODULE 5 — READING THE BIBLE

Discovering God's Story and Your Place in It

Module Overview

The Bible is more than an ancient book.

It is God's living Word, revealing who He is, His plan for humanity, and His invitation to know Him through Jesus Christ. Through Scripture, God teaches, corrects, encourages, comforts, and transforms us.

For many new believers, opening the Bible can feel overwhelming. It contains 66 books, written by dozens of authors over thousands of years, with different literary styles, historical settings, and themes.

Where do you begin?

How do you understand what you're reading?

How do you apply it to your everyday life?

The good news is that you don't have to understand everything at once. Just as a relationship grows through regular conversation, your understanding of God's Word grows through faithful reading, prayer, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

This module will help you develop confidence in reading the Bible—not simply to gain knowledge, but to know God more deeply and allow His Word to shape your life.

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."
— Psalm 119:105

Learning Objectives

By the end of Module 5, you will:

- Understand what the Bible is and why it matters.
 - Learn how the Bible is organized.
 - Develop a consistent Bible reading habit.
 - Practice simple methods for understanding and applying Scripture.
 - Begin following a long-term Bible reading plan.
 - Grow in confidence that God speaks through His Word.
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LESSON 10 — WHY THE BIBLE MATTERS

Theme

The Bible is God's inspired Word, revealing His character, His truth, and His plan of salvation.

Key Scriptures

- 2 Timothy 3:16–17
 - Hebrews 4:12
 - Psalm 119:9–16
 - Isaiah 40:8
 - Matthew 24:35
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Big Idea

The Bible isn't simply a book about God—it is God's revelation of Himself to us.

Introduction

Every healthy relationship depends on communication.

Prayer is how we speak with God.

Scripture is one of the primary ways God speaks to us.

The Bible reveals:

- Who God is.
- Who we are.
- Why the world is broken.
- How Jesus restores us.
- How we are called to live.

When we read Scripture, we aren't just collecting information. We are meeting the Author.

What Makes the Bible Unique?

The Bible was written over approximately 1,500 years by more than 40 human authors from different cultures and backgrounds. Yet together, these writings tell one unified story of God's redemption through Jesus Christ.

Christians believe that Scripture is inspired by God. This means God worked through human authors, preserving their personalities and circumstances while communicating His truth.

Because God is faithful, we can trust His Word to guide us.

Why Should We Read the Bible?

God's Word helps us:

- Know God's character.
- Understand His promises.
- Grow in wisdom.
- Resist temptation.
- Find hope during difficult seasons.
- Become more like Christ.

Reading the Bible is not about checking a spiritual box—it is about allowing God's truth to shape our hearts and minds.

Reflection

1. What has your experience with the Bible been so far?
 2. What questions do you have about Scripture?
 3. Why do you think God chose to reveal Himself through written words?
 4. How might regular Bible reading strengthen your relationship with God?
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Weekly Challenge

- Read Psalm 119:1–16.
 - Read one chapter of the Gospel of John each day.
 - Write down one thing you learn about God's character.
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Prayer

Father,

Thank You for giving us Your Word. Open my heart and mind as I read the Scriptures. Help me not only to understand what I read, but to live it out with faith and obedience.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Memory Verse

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

— 2 Timothy 3:16

LESSON 11 — HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

Theme

Understanding Scripture begins with reading it thoughtfully, prayerfully, and in context.

Key Scriptures

- Luke 24:27
 - Acts 17:11
 - James 1:22–25
 - Psalm 1:1–3
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Big Idea

The goal of Bible reading is not simply information—it is transformation.

Introduction

Many people open the Bible expecting every verse to immediately make sense.

The Bible is rich and deep. Some passages are straightforward, while others require careful study and patience.

That's okay.

Learning to read Scripture is like learning a new language. It becomes clearer with time, practice, and guidance.

A Simple Bible Study Method

As you read, ask four simple questions:

1. What does the passage say?

Read carefully. Notice repeated words, people, places, and actions.

2. What did it mean to the original audience?

Consider the historical and cultural context. Who was writing? Who was receiving the message?

3. What does it teach about God?

Every passage reveals something about God's character, His purposes, or His relationship with people.

4. How should I respond?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you apply the truth to your life.

Helpful Reading Tips

- Begin with the Gospels.
 - Read slowly.
 - Pray before reading.
 - Keep a notebook.
 - Ask questions.
 - Don't rush difficult passages.
 - Read with other believers when possible.
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Reflection

1. Which of the four questions will help you most?
 2. What habits will help you understand Scripture more deeply?
 3. Who can you ask when you have questions?
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Weekly Challenge

Read one chapter of Mark each day using the four-question method.

Prayer

Lord,

Teach me to read Your Word with humility, wisdom, and expectation. Help me understand not only what You have said, but how You want me to live because of it.

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Do not merely listen to the word...Do what it says."

— James 1:22

LESSON 12 — BUILDING A DAILY BIBLE READING HABIT

Theme

Small, consistent steps in God's Word lead to lifelong spiritual growth.

Key Scriptures

- Joshua 1:8
 - Psalm 119:105
 - Colossians 3:16
 - Deuteronomy 6:6–9
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Big Idea

Consistency is more important than quantity.

Introduction

Many people begin reading the Bible with excitement, only to lose momentum after a few weeks.

The goal isn't to read quickly.

The goal is to remain faithful.

Even ten intentional minutes each day can shape your spiritual life over time.

Building Your Habit

Choose:

- A consistent time.
- A quiet place.
- A reading plan.
- A notebook.
- A realistic daily goal.

Missed a day?

Don't quit.

Simply begin again.

Reflection

1. What time of day works best for Bible reading?
2. What distractions can you remove?
3. What realistic goal can you commit to this week?

Weekly Challenge

Read the Bible every day this week, even if only for ten minutes.

Prayer

Father,

Help me develop a love for Your Word. Give me the discipline to remain faithful and the joy of discovering new truths each day.

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night."

— Joshua 1:8

LESSON 13 — UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

Theme

The Holy Spirit helps believers understand and apply God's Word.

Key Scriptures

- John 16:13
- Psalm 119:18

- Proverbs 2:1–6
 - Luke 24:45
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Big Idea

Understanding Scripture is a lifelong journey of learning, prayer, and dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

Not every passage will make immediate sense.

Some are poetic.

Some are historical.

Some contain prophecy.

Others are letters written to early churches.

As you continue reading, you'll discover that Scripture interprets Scripture. The more you read, the more connections you'll begin to see.

Don't be discouraged by difficult passages.

Keep learning.

Keep asking.

Keep trusting God to teach you.

Practical Tools

- Read different Bible translations.
- Use a study Bible.
- Consult trusted commentaries.
- Discuss Scripture with mature believers.

- Pray before and after reading.
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Reflection

1. Which parts of the Bible seem most challenging?
 2. What resources can help you grow?
 3. How has God already spoken to you through Scripture?
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Weekly Challenge

Choose one passage this week and spend three consecutive days studying it slowly.

Prayer

Holy Spirit,

Open my eyes to understand Your truth. Give me wisdom, patience, and humility as I continue learning Your Word.

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in Your law."

— Psalm 119:18

LESSON 14 — BEGINNING YOUR 52-WEEK BIBLE READING JOURNEY

Theme

A lifelong relationship with God's Word begins with one faithful day at a time.

Key Scriptures

- Psalm 1:1–3
 - Matthew 7:24–27
 - Romans 15:4
 - Colossians 3:16
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Big Idea

Bible reading is not a race to finish—it is a daily invitation to know God more deeply.

Introduction

By now you've learned why the Bible matters, how to read it, and how to build a consistent habit.

The next step is simple:

Keep going.

A reading plan provides direction, structure, and accountability. Rather than wondering what to read next, you can confidently continue through God's story day after day.

Whether you complete the plan in exactly fifty-two weeks or take longer, the goal remains the same: remain faithful.

Making the Most of Your Reading Plan

As you follow your reading plan:

- Begin each session with prayer.

- Read attentively rather than quickly.
- Write down observations.
- Ask how each passage points to Christ.
- Look for one practical application each day.
- Share what you're learning with someone else.

Remember, transformation happens through faithful obedience, not hurried completion.

Reflection

1. What has surprised you most about reading the Bible?
 2. What habit has helped you stay consistent?
 3. How has God's Word already begun shaping your life?
 4. Who could encourage you as you continue reading?
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Weekly Challenge

- Begin your 52-week Bible reading plan.
 - Read every day this week.
 - Journal one key truth from each day's reading.
 - Share one insight with a friend, mentor, or small group.
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Prayer

Father,

Thank You for speaking through Your Word. As I begin this long-term journey, help me remain faithful. Give me a hunger for Scripture, a teachable spirit, and the courage to live what I learn.

May Your Word shape my thoughts, guide my decisions, and draw me closer to Jesus every day.

In His name,

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

— Psalm 119:105

Module 5 Wrap-Up

God has given you an incredible gift in the Bible. Through its pages, you encounter His character, hear His promises, discover His wisdom, and come to know Jesus more deeply.

As you continue reading Scripture, remember that the goal is not simply to finish a reading plan. The goal is to allow God's Word to transform your heart, renew your mind, and shape your daily life.

The habits you've begun—reading prayerfully, studying thoughtfully, and applying faithfully—will serve you throughout your journey with Christ.

In **Module 6**, you'll build on these habits by learning how to create a meaningful daily devotional life, combining prayer, Scripture, reflection, and worship into a rhythm that deepens your relationship with God each day.