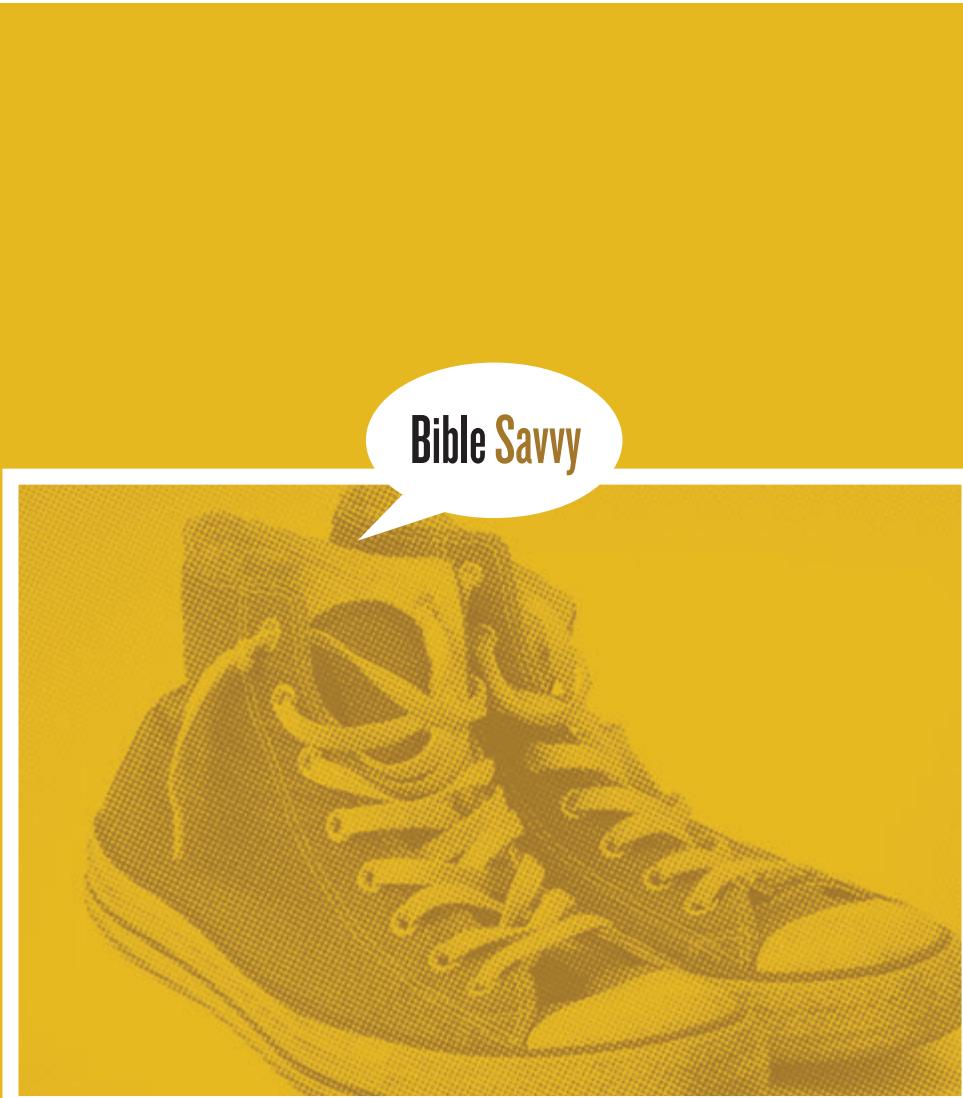


STUDY GUIDE

Walk: How to Apply the Bible

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Bible Savvy

WALK

Study Guide

The *Study Guide* questions at the end of each chapter have been designed for your personal benefit. *All* questions can be used for personal study and, if you're part of a discussion group, for preparation for your group meeting. If you are part of a small group, you will find the questions preceded by the group icon  are especially useful for discussion. Your group leader can choose from among those questions when the group meets.

Chapter I: Light for the Path

Icebreakers

Icebreaker 1: Describe a time in your life when you were caught in the dark—without a light.

Icebreaker 2: When you read the Bible on your own, how often do you come away from it with a specific application for your life? (Explain your answer.)

Always

Frequently

Sometimes

Seldom

1. If a person regularly finds the Bible to be confusing, boring, or difficult to apply to their life, what might that indicate? Why?

2. Read Ephesians 1:13–14How does a person get the Holy Spirit? What picture does Paul paint in these verses about the Holy Spirit's role in the lives of believers? Why should this be encouraging to a Christ follower?

3.  Read 1 Corinthians 2:11–14 and Romans 8:5–11Make a list of ways in which the Holy Spirit demonstrates His presence in a person's life. Circle the evidences on the list that you see in your own life.

4. What do you learn in John 14:15–17, 26 and John 16:7–15 about the Holy Spirit's role as your personal Bible teacher?



- If the Holy Spirit has been given to you as a resident tutor, how might that impact the way in which you approach reading, studying, and applying the Bible?
5. What is the *condition* you must meet in order for the Holy Spirit to illuminate God's Word for you? What might be some indications of such an attitude on your part?
6. What has been one or two of the hardest lessons for you to learn from God's Word? Why were they so difficult to apply?
7. What does Paul warn us *not* to do to the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 4:30? Read the surrounding context to this verse (vv. 25–32) and note the sorts of behaviors that would do this to God's Spirit.



- How might grieving the Holy Spirit affect His role as your teacher and illuminator of God's Word?



8. Explain how the Bible serves as a mirror in the life of a Christ follower.

- What are some tips for using the Bible as a mirror that you pick up in James 1:22–25?

- In the very next verses (James 1:26, 27), what are some of the changes that James says should be made in our lives after looking into the mirror of God's Word?



9. What is something you will *start* doing or *stop* doing as an application of this chapter?

Chapter 2: From Text to Life

Icebreakers

Icebreaker 1: Describe the most and the least relevant courses you took in school. What made them so?

Icebreaker 2: What have been your biggest challenges in getting practical applications from the Bible for your life?

1. What does COMA stand for? Describe what is meant by each letter of this acronym.

2. What are the four kinds of *contexts* to consider when reading a Bible passage? Explain why each of these is important to consider when interpreting Scripture.

3. With the help of the introductions provided for each Bible book by your personal study Bible (or a similar tool), briefly sketch out the historical contexts for the following books:

Deuteronomy

Nehemiah

Hosea

Philemon

James



4. Read Deuteronomy Make some observations about this chapter in each of the four observation categories (*theme, repeating words or ideas, something striking, and truths about God*).



5. What is meant by the expression “timeless principle” in describing the *message* you draw out of a passage?

- What is the danger in skipping the *C* and *O* steps of COMA—and moving right to the *M*?



6. What five things will SPECS help you see when crafting a *message* from a Bible passage?

- Why is it beneficial to put your *message* in the form of a pithy title?



7. Choose one of your *observations* from Deuteronomy 8 (see above) and draw a *message* (timeless principle) from it. Next, put that *message* in the form of a title.

8. Write out the four couplet-tips for making *applications* and explain why each one is important.



9. Craft a personal *application* based upon the *message* that you drew out of Deuteronomy 8.



10. What was the most difficult step in COMA to get the hang of as you applied it to Deuteronomy 8? Why?

Chapter 3: Coming Out of a COMA

Icebreaker

What kinds of things are you most observant about (i.e. you notice details)? In what areas of life do you wish you were more observant?



1. Do a COMA study of Ecclesiastes (Compare your results with the appendix.)

Context:

Observations (theme; repeating words or ideas; something striking; truths about God):

Message (from one of your observations):

Application:



2. Do a COMA study of Isaiah 1 (Compare your results with the appendix.)

Context:

Observations (theme; repeating words or ideas; something striking; truths about God):

Message (from one of your observations):

Application:



3. Do a COMA study of Hebrews (Compare your results with the appendix.)

Context:

Observations (theme; repeating words or ideas; something striking; truths about God):

Message (from one of your observations):

Application:



4. Do a COMA study of Leviticus 4, or Psalm 139, or I John (Your pick. How big a challenge do you want? You won't find any help in the appendix. It's just you. . . and the Holy Spirit.)

Context:

Observations (theme; repeating words or ideas; something striking; truths about God):

Message (from one of your observations):

Application:

Chapter 4: A Daily Discipline

Icebreaker

In what areas of your life are you disciplined? In what areas of your life do you wish you were more disciplined? Why are you more disciplined in some areas than in others?

1. Read 1 Timothy 4:7b, In what ways might training in godliness be like physical training?


- Why does Paul say that training in godliness trumps physical training? What might be included on the list of “all things” for which godliness has value?
2. What four factors contribute to your spiritual growth? Briefly describe why each one is important.


3. Explain why the Holy Spirit’s empowerment and personal effort must be balanced as you pursue spiritual growth (i.e., what happens when either of these is neglected).


- What Old Testament picture portrays this balance?
4. What do you think is the difference between godly habits and legalistic practices? How might you keep the former from morphing into the latter in your life?


5. What would be the best time and place for you to daily spend time with God in His Word? Why?

6. Which Bible reading schedule (i.e., of the several recommended in this chapter) would work best for you? Why?



7. Do a COMA study of 2 Corinthians 4.

Context

Observations (3–4)

Message (and title)

Application

8. Why do you think Paul urged others to imitate him?

- What do you learn about the example Paul set from the following verses: Philippians 3:17; 4:9; 1 Corinthians 4:15–17; 1 Thessalonians 1:4–6; 2 Thessalonians 3:6–10; 2 Timothy 3:10–11?



9. Who models spiritual growth for you? What can you learn from this person's example?