



CrossConnect
MINISTRIES

NAVIGATING THE BIBLE

SEVEN TOOLS FOR MAKING THE BIBLE YOURS

JACKIE OESCH

**“I have stored up your word in my heart...”
Psalm 119:11**

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You are embarking on an adventure that will shape the rest of your life. Your journey will be unique to you and will be determined in part by your eager and enthusiastic passion to grow in your understanding of the Book called the Holy Bible. Your commitment to the study promises to enrich your life as God speaks to you through His Word.

As you study you are encouraged to have these supplies on hand:

1. This orientation unit: *Navigating the Bible*
2. English Standard Version of the Holy Bible (ESV). Note: If you are making a new purchase, look for a Bible, if possible, that has:
 - a. a cross-reference column preferably down the center of each page,
 - b. a concordance usually found in the back of the Bible, and
 - c. a few basic maps also found in the back.
3. Pen or pencil

With the three features listed in #2 you will be adequately supplied for your study and be ready to learn how to successfully navigate through Scripture. Should this be your first exposure to the Bible, *Navigating the Bible* is a great place to begin. This unit provides navigational tools designed to help you develop skills that will make you a more confident student. *Navigating the Bible* is available as a free download for family and friends at www.crosscm.org. or may be purchased through www.amazon.com. Although this material is a recommended place to begin, it is not essential for success as you study other CrossConnect Bible studies.

Do not hesitate to mark up your Bible. It's your Bible to study. Make it your own with your notes, your underlining, highlighting, circling and arrows! You may choose to use a notebook or tablet for recording thoughts, questions, and tracking your journey through the study.

Something you need to know: Different translations of the Bible are available at both Bible bookstores and Barnes and Noble-type stores and, of course, online. The suggested translation for this study is the English Standard Version, also known as the ESV. References in the Bible study are from the ESV translation. This version is translated from the original text and scholars agree that this translation is exceptionally accurate and uses today's language. Many other fine translations are available and sometimes help to clarify and give understanding to a particular passage of the Bible. In addition to

different translations, publishers offer “study Bibles” or “inductive study Bibles” or “life application Bibles.” These Bibles offer extensive notes and expanded features that you will learn about in this study.

With these features you will be adequately prepared for your study and ready to learn how to navigate competently through Scripture. Do not hesitate to ask a salesperson for help in making your selection. Ask for guidance especially when looking for a Bible with a cross-reference column. Cross-referencing will be discussed in Lesson 3.

The lessons are divided into five parts. These segments are only guides to help you move through the study in a timely manner. The pace for your study is up to you. Sometimes the lesson may demand more time than you have and will require you to complete the lesson in more than one sitting. At other times you may complete one lesson part and choose to move right on to the next.

This study is written so that you are able to learn on your own. With a degree of self-discipline you will master the material with little or no difficulty. At the same time, you will acquire new information, gain new insights, and ask some challenging questions that will beg for answers. Anticipating this response you are encouraged to seriously consider inviting a couple of friends to study with you.

May you find joy in your study. May your heart be receptive as God speaks to you through His Word. May these Bible tools equip and enable you discover by God’s Holy Spirit His great love given to you through His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

It’s time to let the adventure begin! Open your Bible. Let’s start with the title page. What words are written on this page? _____

Introduction	7
Lesson 1	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Testament • New Testament • Abbreviations • <i>Navigational Tool #1: Chapters and Verses</i> • Bible Book Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Pentateuch ○ History ○ Literature ○ Prophets: Major and Minor 	
Lesson 2	19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gospels • Early Church History • Epistles • Apocalyptic • Writing Styles • <i>Navigational Tool #2: Maps</i> 	
Lesson 3	27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Navigational Tool #3: Cross-Reference</i> • <i>Navigational Tool #4: The Concordance</i> • Review 	
Lesson 4	33
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Navigational Tool #5: Questions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Situation or Event ○ Teaching • <i>Navigational Tool #6: Keywords and Phrases</i> • <i>Navigational Tool #7: The Setting</i> • Review • <i>Discipline #1: Bible Study</i> • <i>Discipline #2: Memorization</i> • <i>Discipline #3: Prayer</i> 	
Lesson 5	43
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adoration ○ Confession ○ Thanksgiving ○ Supplication 	
Lesson 6	47
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer – Going Deeper! 	
Review	51

Once upon a time a man purchased a new car. The car's technology had unlimited potential. After closing the deal, the new proud owner had the car delivered and parked in his driveway. His family was thrilled and eager to be taken for their first ride. Neighbors came over to admire his new car. His dream of owning a car and visiting amazing places was about to come true. The world was his to discover. Nothing would be able to stop him.

Day after day, however, the car remained in the driveway exposed to the harsh weather. Rain, sleet, and snow fell on it throughout the winter and in the summer the sun's heat beat down on the roof. Nevertheless, the man continued to wash, wax and care for his car and all the while his family and neighbors wondered why he never pulled the car into the garage and out of the elements. Hopes for a ride and dreams of traveling to faraway places were gone.

One day a neighbor came over while he was polishing the hood and began to ask him about his car. He asked the man why he never used his car. The proud owner hesitated and then with a sheepish look in his eye admitted to his neighbor that he didn't know how to drive the automobile. No one had explained to him how the car operated. He had no idea how to utilize all of the car's fine features. He only knew that they were included in the package he had purchased. He wanted to experience the thrill of the ride but had no idea where to put the key or how to start the engine. The most basic operational things he had never been taught and felt foolish about his purchase. All he could do was to care for it. What had once been a dream had become something he resented and tried to ignore.

After hearing the problem his neighbor got so excited and asked if he could show this once proud owner a few things that would enable him to enjoy his car. Together they unlocked the doors and read the operator's manual. They put the key in the ignition and started the motor. His neighbor taught him the mechanics of his automobile. He learned how to operate the sun roof, the automatic windows, and the cruise control. In no time he was ready to venture out on his own tackling the open roads and crowded freeways. He was out to fulfill his dreams. His family joined the auto club and began planning major trips across the country. He was a released man, no longer living with guilt but rather with the anticipation of where his car would take him on any given day!

Have you ever felt like this? Have you ever made a purchase and failed to benefit from all the added value of the product? This study *Navigating the Bible* is written with you in mind. Maybe you have never owned a Bible before and this is your first time to get acquainted with it. Or, maybe you already own a Bible but have never been taught how to maneuver through it. As a result, it has been left

unopened on the shelf. You knew it was there. You've even dusted it periodically. You used to feel guilt about not reading it but since it was so overwhelming to figure out where to begin you abandoned the whole idea.

This study is your invitation to master tools for competently navigating the Bible. You will be given tools and exercises to guide and facilitate your study. You are invited to participate. All you are asked to bring to the study is an open heart eager to journey into the open heart of God. As you study, give Him the opportunity to come into a relationship with you. Enjoy the adventure. There's so much to learn along the way. Have fun!

Now, let's turn the key and start the engine!

Part 1

It is time to begin. Open your Bible to the **Table of Contents** and the listing of the books of the Bible.

EXERCISE:

- As you look at this page, what are some of your observations?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

TEACHING:

1. The list of books is divided into two testaments: _____ Testament and _____ Testament
 - a. *DEFINITION:* The Old Testament is a group of ancient writings, written primarily in the Hebrew language by prophets inspired by God. Five books were written by Moses, several others by prophets, and still others were written by inspired men as hymns to God and directives for living life as a Jew. *Note: The collection of these sacred writing, or Scriptures, forms the basis of belief for Judaism.*
 - b. *DEFINITION:* The New Testament is a group of books or sacred writings, written in the Greek language by inspired men of God. Included in the New Testament are the first four books that give an account of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. One history book Acts and the twenty-one letters written by Paul, Peter, and other apostles to various individuals in churches are also included. The Book of Revelation completes the New Testament writings. *Note: The collection of the sacred writings of both Old and New Testament books forms the basis of belief for the Christian Church.*
2. The Old Testament consists of more books than the New Testament.
 - a. How many books are in the Old Testament? _____
 - b. How many books are in the New Testament? _____
 - c. What is the total number of books in the Bible? _____

More than three-fourths of the Bible is the Old Testament. Check it out! Keep a finger on this page and thumb through your Bible and find the page where the New Testament begins. Another way to remember: Three letters are in the word "Old" and nine letters in the word "Testament"

and together make 3 and 9. For the New Testament 3 times 9 is 27, the number of books in the New Testament. $39 + 27 = 66!$ How fun is that!

- 3. The sixty-six books of the Bible are listed on the left in the Table of Contents. Many Bible editions will also list the Book’s abbreviation and page number.

EXERCISE:

- 1. Use the Table of Contents and write in the name of each Bible book and its abbreviation.

OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS AND ABBREVIATIONS (39)

<u>Book</u>	<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Abbreviation</u>
Genesis	Gen or Ge		

2. Use the Table of Contents and write in the name of each Bible book and its abbreviation.

NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS AND ABBREVIATIONS (27)

<u>Book</u>	<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Abbreviation</u>
Matthew	Matt or Mt		

3. Reading through the names of the individual books you may notice some names are very familiar and others not so familiar. Some of these names are relatively easy to pronounce and others are a challenge. You may choose to take on the challenge by speaking the names aloud. You will be pleased to find that the list is not as daunting as it may appear at first glance. Go ahead, give it a try!
4. Many of the book names have become familiar to us because these same names have been given by parents to their children. One of these names may be yours. Take a moment to compile a list in your notebook of those given names you recognize from the books of the Bible.

Part 2

Navigational Tool #1: Chapters and Verses

To help navigate through the Bible *chapters and verses* have been inserted. Chapters and verses were not in the original writings of the text but they have been created by biblical scholars as a universal means for locating any given biblical reference at any given time.

TEACHING: We will use the first page of the book of Genesis as our springboard for learning. Turn to the title page for the book of Genesis. The title page will be found on the page number indicated for the book of Genesis in the Table of Contents.

1. The book begins with a large printed number “1”. This large number indicates the beginning of a chapter. Locate the beginning of chapter 2.
2. *DEFINITION:* A *chapter* is a large section of the text or sacred writing that contains several verses. A Bible book may consist of one chapter such as Philemon or Jude while other books may consist of as many as thirty or more chapters. See, for example, the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah. The longest single chapter is Psalm 119.
3. Looking closely you will notice small printed numbers typed within the text. The small number “1” may not be present because it is assumed. Look for a small number 2. This smaller number indicates a verse.
4. *DEFINITION:* A *verse* consists of words, phrases, or sentences. Several verses together constitute a chapter. Verses vary in length. The shortest verse is John 11:35, “Jesus _____” The longest verse is Esther 8:9. Take a look for yourself!
5. In a lesson exercise you may be asked to look up several passages. The instruction would include a list indicating the chapter(s) and verse(s) within a given book of the Bible where these passages or references are to be found.
6. *DEFINITION:* A *passage* or *reference* may be a verse, several verses, a chapter or even several chapters in the Bible.
7. As defined, several verses make up a chapter. When referencing the second verse of the first chapter of Genesis, one would refer to it as Genesis chapter 1 and verse 2, or Genesis 1 verse 2. When writing, however, the words are written in a shortcut fashion: Genesis 1:2. Take a moment to look up this reference in Genesis. To confirm for you that you have found Genesis 1:2, the verse begins with the words, “The earth was without form...”

EXERCISE: Let’s practice. If you are uncertain where a book may be found, be sure to use the list of the books of the Bible found in the Table of Contents. Here we go!

1. Look up these references and write out the first phrase or sentence:
 - a. Genesis 22:13 – the verse begins, “_____”
 - b. Exodus 14:13 – the verse begins, “_____”
 - c. Matthew 5:13 – the verse begins, “_____”
2. How did you do? If you were successful your answers will read:
 - a. Genesis 22:13 – “And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold...”

- b. Exodus 14:13 – “And Moses said to the people, ‘Fear not, stand firm...’”
- c. Matthew 5:13 – “You are the salt of the earth...”

It may take a little more practice, but now you are equipped with a navigational tool that will be useful for your growth and learning.

Part 3

TEACHING: The books of the Bible are in an order; however, the order is not a chronological one. In Parts 3-5 we will look at the order of the Old Testament books and in Lesson 2, Parts 1 and 2 we will look at the order of the New Testament books.

The Old Testament books are arranged into four groups. You may choose to mark these book groups in your Table of Contents.

Group 1: The Pentateuch.

These are the first five books of the Bible and were written by the prophet Moses. Sometimes they are referred to as the *Books of Moses*. The Jewish rabbis may refer to these Books as the *Torah*. The Pentateuch has formulated the traditions of the Jewish people and contains all the Jewish laws, teachings, and instructions for living life as an Israelite. These books hold stories, including stories of the Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Pentateuch includes these books:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Genesis | 4. Numbers |
| 2. Exodus | 5. Deuteronomy |
| 3. Leviticus | |

EXERCISE: Now let’s check out an example of *instruction for Jewish living* found in the Pentateuch. Find Exodus 12. The first twenty-eight (28) verses talk about the Passover. In verses 14-20 God gives very specific instructions to His people, the Israelites. Read these instructions. What are some of His directions? What did you discover?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

The purpose of this exercise is not to understand all the details and not to become overwhelmed with what is happening in the story. This exercise is intended to be an example of a tradition that God established

for His people. God gave the Israelites careful instruction regarding the Passover. He wanted them to remember forever the night that He passed over the houses of the Israelites but struck down the firstborn of the Egyptians. This meal called the Passover meal, or the Seder meal, commemorates that night for the Israelites. It's exciting and informative reading!

TEACHING:

Group 2: The Books of History.

Another major grouping consists of the Books that record Israel's history. The primary historical Books are:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Joshua | 6. I and II Chronicles |
| 2. Judges | 7. Ezra |
| 3. Ruth | 8. Nehemiah |
| 4. I and II Samuel | 9. Esther |
| 5. I and II Kings | |

EXERCISE: Let's take a look at an historical event recorded in one of the history books, the book of Joshua. You may or not be familiar with this story already. Enjoy reading the account of the event in Joshua 6. Consider these questions.

1. Where did the event take place (verse 1)? _____
2. Who was the primary character (verse 2)? _____
3. What did God do (verse 20)? _____

APPLICATION: Israel had walls to overcome. What might be a "wall" for you that seems overwhelming right now? Where have you experienced God working to collapse a wall in your life?

PRAYER: Lord God, thank You for working to destroy the walls in my life that threaten to separate me from You. Amen

Part 4

TEACHING:

Group 3: The Literature Books.

This group contains hymns, songs, and writings that are often referred to as wisdom literature. The literature books include:

1. Job, considered the oldest book in the Bible
2. Psalms
3. Proverbs
4. Ecclesiastes
5. Song of Songs, also known as the Song of Solomon

EXERCISE:

1. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 is a sample. Read these verses and see if they sound familiar. “Turn! Turn! Turn!” (from the book of Ecclesiastes), a song written by Peter Seeger and sung by The Byrds in 1965, turned these verses to music. Another reading from the literature books is from Psalm 23. Read the Psalm.
 - a. Write out the first verse: _____
 - b. Now read the other verses. Write out the verse from this Psalm has particular meaning for you? _____
2. Why is this verse special for you? _____

PRAYER: Thank You, Lord, for being my Shepherd. Thank You for taking care of me and those I love. Because of Your love for me in Jesus, I have everything that I need. Amen.

TEACHING:

Group 4: Books of the Prophets.

The books written by the prophets are divided into two groups: *major prophets* and *minor prophets*. The prophets were chosen by God and were called by Him to speak His Word to the people of Israel.

Major Prophets: Four Books plus the book of Lamentations, also written by Jeremiah, are referred to as major because of the length of these Books. Almost three times more pages are given to the writings of the major prophets than to the minor ones. Because God wanted an intimate relationship with the Israelites whom He had chosen to be His people, He gave the prophets the work of giving 1) a word of judgment to them for the

evil ways they chose to live their lives, 2) a call to turn from their wicked ways, and 3) a promise of mercy and a restoration of the relationship with all who turned back to Him. 4) Oftentimes they pointed to Jesus, the One whom God would send as His ultimate Redeemer. The Books of the *major prophets* include:

1. Isaiah
2. Jeremiah (and Lamentations)
3. Ezekiel
4. Daniel

EXERCISE: The following passages give three examples of the *work of the prophets*. Identify the passage that speaks of *judgment*, the passage that calls Israel to *turn back* to the Lord, and the passage that speaks of the *promise* of God, and the one that *points* to God's ultimate Redeemer. Write the words/phrases from these verses that identify judgment, the call to return, the promise, and the anticipation of God's Redeemer for humanity.

1. Jeremiah 4:16-18 (speaks a word of judgment) _____
2. Jeremiah 4:1-4 (the call to turn back) _____
3. Jeremiah 29:11 (the promise) _____
4. Jeremiah 23:5-6 (pointing to God's ultimate Redeemer) _____

APPLICATION: In this third passage Jeremiah reminds the Israelites that God cares for them and desires to give them hope and a future. That same promise is yours and mine. He cares and desires to give us hope and a future. Knowing and believing that His promise is true for you, what difference might that make in the way you live your life? _____

EXERCISE: Another dramatic story is found in another book of the major prophets, the book of Daniel. Read Daniel 3.

1. Who are the primary characters (verse 12)?
 - a. _____,
 - b. _____, and
 - c. _____
 2. What happened to them (verses 19-23)? _____
 3. Why was this done to them (verses 13-15)? _____
-

APPLICATION: Life can be difficult at times and we can feel alone. This story offers reassurance that “our God whom we serve is able to deliver (save) us... (Daniel 3:17).”

PRAYER: Thank You, Lord, for loving me and reassuring me that just as You were with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego You are with me even during times when life seems hopeless and I feel so alone. Thank You, Jesus. You give me hope and a future with You forever. Amen.

Part 5

TEACHING:

Group 4: Book of the Prophets (continued).

Minor Prophets: The books of the *minor prophets* include:

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Hosea | 5. Jonah | 9. Zephaniah |
| 2. Joel | 6. Micah | 10. Haggai |
| 3. Amos | 7. Nahum | 11. Zechariah |
| 4. Obadiah | 8. Habakkuk | 12. Malachi |

EXERCISE: A story you may recognize is the story of Jonah and the great fish. Take a moment and read for yourself the four chapters of the book of Jonah. Carefully read his prayer from inside the fish in chapter 2.

1. Who is the main character in the story? _____
2. What were his circumstances? _____

APPLICATION:

1. Jonah 2:4 says that Jonah driven away from God’s sight. Have you ever felt like Jonah did?

2. When was a time you called for God’s help (Jonah 2)? _____
3. How did things turn out? _____
4. What are some of your thoughts and reflections? _____

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, sometimes I feel as though I’ve blown it. I feel as though I’m the one sitting in the belly of the fish, but You come to where I am and offer me hope and encouragement. You rescue me so that I can live free again. Thank You. Amen.

Part 1

INTRODUCTION: In Lesson 1 we began to define new terms, such as chapters and verses, and we looked at the order of the Old Testament books. Here is a reminder as we continue with the order of the New Testament books: You may have started asking questions, lots of questions! That’s a good thing. Be sure to write them down either in the margins of the lesson or in your notebook. You are encouraged to ask questions but do not let them become roadblocks to your learning. Many answers will surface as you continue with your personal study and as you participate with others in discussion.

TEACHING: The New Testament is also arranged into four groups. As you continue your study of the different book groups you may choose to mark your Table of Contents as you identify them.

Group 1: The Gospels.

The Gospels are the first four books of the New Testament.

DEFINITION: The word *Gospel* means Good News. The Gospels tell the Good News of God’s love for mankind. The Gospels tell the Good News of Jesus.

The Gospel writers tell the story of Jesus—His life, death, and resurrection. They tell us the Good News that our sins are forgiven. Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, the relationship between God and man has been restored. Each of the four writers gives their account and therefore four different perspectives on many of the same incidents. The four Gospels are:

1. The Book of Matthew
2. The Book of Mark
3. The Book of Luke
4. The Book of John

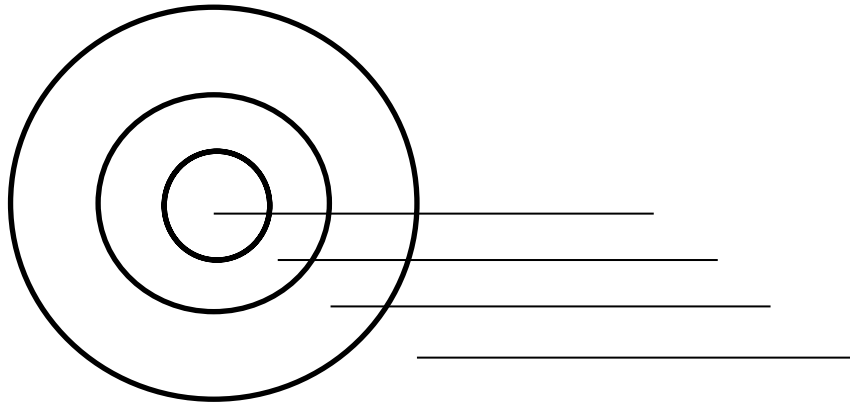
EXERCISE: Using each of the four Gospels, read the reference and identify the Good News in each passage:

1. Matthew 5:7 – The Good News is _____
2. Mark 2:1-5 – The Good News is _____
3. Luke 15:3-7 – The Good News is _____
4. John 8:31-32 – The Good News is _____

Group 2: Early Church History.

Acts was written by St. Luke, the Gospel writer (Acts 1:1). This Book is most commonly referenced as *Acts* but is sometimes referred to as the *Acts of the Holy Spirit* or the *Acts of the Apostles*. This historical recording gives an account of the early Church as it was established in Jerusalem and eventually throughout the world. God's vision was articulated by Jesus to His disciples before He ascended into heaven.

EXERCISE: Read Acts 1:8 and note in this target the expansion of the Church as it spread throughout the region and to the ends of the earth starting with Jerusalem in the center.



Part 2

TEACHING:

Group 3: The Epistles

DEFINITION: Epistles are letters.

Paul wrote the majority of the Epistles. Peter, James, and John are other writers. These letters were written to encourage and strengthen both the churches that were being established throughout the known world and those who were mentored by these great men. The 21 Epistles are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Romans | 6. Colossians |
| 2. 1 st and 2 nd Corinthians | 7. 1 st and 2 nd Thessalonians |
| 3. Galatians | 8. 1 st and 2 nd Timothy |
| 4. Ephesians | 9. Titus |
| 5. Philippians | 10. Philemon |

11. Hebrews

14. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John

12. James

15. Jude

13. 1st and 2nd Peter

EXERCISE: An example of words written to encourage and strengthen the Church is Philippians 4:6. This is a verse with powerful words of encouragement to the Christians who were living in fear and endured suffering and even death under such tyrants as Nero. Write out the words to verse 6:

APPLICATION:

1. What are some things in my life that cause me anxiety? _____

2. God never intended for us to be fearful or anxious about anything. What does He encourage us to do when we feel anxious or stressed? _____
3. What does He promise in verse 7? _____

PRAYER: Lord God, thank you for caring about me and the anxiety I hold in my heart. Give me a heart of thanksgiving that reminds me of how You have provided for me in the past and will continue to do so into the future. Thank You for the promise of peace that comes in knowing Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Amen.

TEACHING:

Group 4: Apocalyptic.

The book of Revelation is the only New Testament book referred to as apocalyptic literature

DEFINITION: Apocalyptic literature literally means “uncovering” or “revealed.”

Apocalyptic literature is symbolic picture language that seeks to uncover or reveal the secrets belonging to the heavenly world. Revelation was written by St. John. It was John’s recording of a prophetic vision he had while a prisoner in exile.

EXERCISE:

1. Where did John live in exile (Revelation 1:9)? _____
2. Take a moment to read a portion of chapter 15. This chapter will give you a sense of the picture language that demands the use of our imaginations for understanding. What are some images suggested in Revelation 15:1-2?
 - a. _____

- b. _____
- c. _____

Part 3

TEACHING: The writing styles of the different authors vary. Different individuals used different ways to communicate God’s Word to people. The column on the left gives six different writing styles. The next column, Biblical reference, indicates where you can read an example of the specific style. The third column is intended to give you some understanding of the references and the last column gives space for any of your own questions or comments that may come from your study.

EXERCISE:

Writing style	Biblical reference	Observations and comments	Your questions, comments, observations
Narrative	Matthew 4:18-22	These verses tell the story of Jesus calling three of His disciples.	
Poetry	Psalms 8:1-9	The writer used poetry to speak of the glory of God as Creator and man’s relationship to Him as the created.	
Proverb	Proverbs 11:25	What is said in the first part of the proverb is often restated for understanding in the second part.	
Prophecies	Isaiah 9:6	Prophecies are not fortune telling but rather they tell forth things to come. This prophecy says a Child will be born.	
Parables (see next page)	Luke 18:9-14	Spiritual truth: “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”	

Apocalyptic	Revelation 6:1,2	These verses speak of seals, living creatures, a white horse and its rider. All is apocalyptic language.	
--------------------	------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

DEFINITION: A parable is best understood as an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Note: The Jewish community commonly taught in parables or stories. Jesus used what the people knew and often spoke in parables to communicate truths to people that they might understand the things of God. He would speak using situations and possessions that were familiar to their daily life such as, sowing seed, a lost coin, a wayward son, or receiving wages for employment. Parables often offer a moral or spiritual truth.

Part 4

TEACHING: Questions and answers are a part of what it means to study God’s Word. Sometimes we ask questions because we want to dig deeper and acquire greater knowledge and understanding. Sometimes we ask questions because we simply do not understand. And, still other times we ask questions just because circumstances in life don’t seem to resonate with the Scriptural teaching. As we said in the introduction to Lesson 2 – Part 1, it is good to ask questions. Questions allow God’s Spirit to work in us as He speaks to our hearts and minds bringing us to a new level of understanding of who God is and the relationship He wants us to enjoy with Him.

At the same time, it is important for us to accept that not all questions have answers. Some questions require a search for the truth. Other questions require patience believing that at the proper time insights and understanding will be pieced together and answers will come. Still other questions can only remain as questions. We are mortal human beings who have limited knowledge and understanding. God is omniscient, all-knowing, and as such holds knowledge that we with our finite minds cannot comprehend. All questions may be raised and all answers sought after. However, not all questions will have answers. We must look to God in faith believing that He knows all things. He knows and wants what is best for us.

You will note in this lesson that each question has space provided for answers. You will also note that with each question there is an additional application question. Application questions were introduced in Lesson 1 but now the study moves you to a new awareness of these intentional questions. *As your study of God’s Word begins it is imperative that you are looking for the connection between what God revealed to people many years ago and what He is saying to me as I live my life in the 21st Century.* God does not

change His mind. What He said so long ago He also says now. Malachi 3:6 says, “For I the Lord do not change.” As you look for the connection you will begin to ask questions. A question might be: What new dimension does God’s Word add to my life as I begin to apply its teaching to different relationships, to different circumstances, and to people I encounter within my day?

Application questions search for answers to the “so what?” questions. In other words, if this is what God says, *so what* does this mean for me and my life? Application questions help us see where the “rubber meets the road,” where God’s Word finds relevance in our lives. Application questions are intimate and reflective in their nature. Again, to enrich your journey through this study, be sure to record your responses to these reflective questions in your notebook or in the margins of the study.

EXERCISE: Using the tools for navigating through the Bible that you learned in the previous lesson, look at some passages and answer a couple of questions.

1. Who actually wrote the Bible, Holy Scriptures? What do these verses tell you?
 - a. 2 Peter 1:20, 21 _____
 - b. 2 Timothy 3:16 _____

APPLICATION: What thoughts surface in your mind as you consider that the Bible is God’s Word written for you? What is God telling you about the relationship He wants with you?

2. What is the purpose of all Scripture?
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:15 – “...which are able to _____.”
 - b. 2 Timothy 3:16 – It is “profitable (useful) for
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - iv. _____.”
 - c. 2 Timothy 3:17 - “that the man of God may be _____.”

APPLICATION: Do I consider God’s Word useful? In what ways might it become useful for me (2 Timothy 3:16)?

- a. Teaching: _____
- b. Reproof: _____
- c. Correction: _____
- d. Training: _____

3. How can I integrate God’s Word into my choices and decisions as I live within the environments of home and family, the workplace, and the community? _____
-

PRAYER: Lord God, thank You for men who were obedient to You and wrote Your Word of Truth. Open my heart to listen to You speak as I read and study Your Word. Help me integrate Your truths into my life. Open the eyes of my heart to see how much You love me. _____

Part 5

TEACHING: We began with the Table of Contents to introduce the different books that compose the Bible. Chapters and verses were the first navigational tools. These tools enable you as the student to readily locate Scripture references for study. Additional tools are found in most Bibles, but not all. Tools are 1) maps of many sites mentioned by the writers in the text, 2) cross-references, and 3) concordance. These tools are introduced to help you become more familiar with the Bible and ultimately to facilitate your study. In this lesson you will be introduced to different maps as tools. In subsequent lessons, you will have the opportunity to become acquainted with the cross-reference column and concordance.

Navigational Tool #2: Maps

To begin the study of Tool #2 you are encouraged to locate present day Israel on a global map. Although the boundaries of the country have changed somewhat, you will be reminded of how small and vulnerable Israel is in comparison to such countries as Egypt, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. The land of Canaan, present day Israel, was given by God to Israel, but the Israelites had to fight many battles under Moses’ successor’s leadership, in order to take possession of the land.

Positioned at the front or the very back of the Bible may be a series of *maps*. In some Bibles these maps can be quite elaborate. However, in most Bibles the maps provide limited information. The following list of maps highlights cities and regions that pertain to different periods in Bible history. The different references listed below will acquaint you with the specific maps. The maps listed below may not all be found in the Bible you are using. In addition, the titles and numbers may be different. Turn to the maps in your Bible and begin to get acquainted with some unfamiliar territory. Begin using these maps as tools for your study:

- Map 1: This map would be the world that early Bible characters of Genesis knew. If not in the group of other maps your Bible may include an illustration near Genesis 12.

Reference: Genesis 12:5 – Locate Haran, the town Abraham left when he set out for the land of Canaan.

- Map 2: The desert where the Israelites wandered may be included with a map that includes the southern territory of Israel, the land of Egypt, and the Sinai Peninsula.

Reference: Exodus 16:1 – Locate the Desert of Sin in the Sinai wilderness.

- Map 3: The land that belonged to each tribe of Israel may not be included; however, if your Bible is a study Bible a map may be included in the book of Joshua.

Reference: Joshua 19:1-9 – Locate the land that was given to the tribes of Simeon and Judah.

- Map 4: This map includes the land that was ruled by the first kings of Israel: Saul, David, and Solomon

Reference: 2 Samuel 2:1 – Locate Hebron just south of Jerusalem.

- Map 5: You will be able to identify several towns and regions that Jesus visited on a map of New Testament cities.

Reference: Luke 2:4 – Locate Nazareth and Bethlehem.

- Map 6: A detailed inset of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus may possibly be found in the book of Mark.

Reference: Mark 11:15 – Locate the temple in Jerusalem.

- Map 7: In the event your Bible does not include a map charting Paul's three missionary journeys, a regional map may be found within the book of Acts.

Reference: Acts 16:1 – Locate Lystra and Derbe in Galatia.

Do not be overly concerned with all the towns, names, or notations on the maps. Rather, become familiar with which maps are available and know where to find them. Each map is designed to help navigate your journey through the land of Israel and the surrounding regions.

Part 1**Navigational Tool #3: Cross-reference**

Cross-references are most often found in a column down the center of each page. The placement is the choice of the publisher. In the cross-reference column the chapter and verse references are written in bold lettering. The name of the Book is assumed. Listed after the bold letter references are at least one or more references. Within the text to the right or left of the cross-reference column you will notice small italicized letters. These letters will correspond to the references listed in the cross-reference column. You will also note that all of the references listed in the cross-reference will be abbreviated. Don't be intimidated by the abbreviations but rather keep the Table of Contents bookmarked for frequent referencing.

EXERCISE: Let's try an example. Turn to Genesis 1. Observe the cross-reference column down the center of the page. Now read the first three words of the first verse of chapter 1: "In the beginning..." Next to the word "beginning" you will note a small letter "a". Move to the cross-reference column. Find the bold reference that reads 1:1, indicating Genesis chapter 1, verse 1. The small "a" will have one or more references listed. The placement of the cross-reference and the number of verses listed can vary and depend on the writers and publishers of the different Bible translations. Please notice that although cross-references may vary from one translation to the next, or even between one edition of the English Standard Version (ESV) and the next, the *text* of Genesis 1:1 will be the same with every ESV. The cross-references listed with "a" in Genesis 1:1 in your Bible may include Hebrews 1:10 and John 1:1-2. Locate these references in your cross-reference column, read, and underline each reference. You will note that each of these verses contains the phrase "in the beginning."

- Genesis 1:1 tells us that "*in the beginning* God created the heavens and earth."
- Hebrews 1:10 says that "*You, Lord, laid the foundation of the _____ in the beginning...*"
- John 1:1-2 also tells us that "*in the beginning* was _____
_____. He was _____
_____ with God."

Part 2

TEACHING: Cross-references affirm and accentuate truths. Basically, all three references affirm the truth that *in the beginning* God created the heavens and the earth. Cross-references also help us gain

insights into deeper truths as God reveals Himself to us. John 1:1-2(3) affirms the truth that *in the beginning* God created the heavens and the earth, but leads us to believe that there's more. Let's keep going!

God is a relational God and desires for us to grow in our relationship with Him. We have relationships with various people in our lives. To move the relationship to a deeper, richer, more meaningful level takes time and effort on the part of both you and the other person. Our relationship with God grows as we move about the Bible guided by these cross-references that move us to deeper, richer, and more meaningful levels of truth and understanding.

Now back to John 1:1-2. In these verses John mentions that "*in the beginning* was the Word." That raises a question: What was the Word that was *in the beginning*? Verse 2 triggers another question: Was this Word that was with God *in the beginning* present as the God who *in the beginning* created the heavens and the earth of Genesis 1:1? Notice that going deeper stimulates questions. Don't be concerned with answers right now, but continue to ask and journal them for later study.

A word of encouragement:

1. Don't hesitate to use your Table of Contents for learning the abbreviations. You will start remembering them the more you use them.
2. The cross-reference is designed to be a tool to help you, not frustrate you. You will develop skill using cross-references as you grow in your study. Don't let learning something new become a roadblock to keep you from moving forward.
3. As you use this tool you will find yourself traveling from one section of Scripture to another. Use your notebook to log your journey. Note different discoveries found in different places. In the process of navigating you will gain insight into how the Old and New Testaments are connected.

EXERCISE: It's time for you to try! Let's look at Genesis 1:3 – "Let there be light, and there was light."

1. Find the cross-reference letter in the text.
2. Go to the corresponding verse in the cross-reference column.
3. Find the letter in the cross-reference column that corresponds to the letter found in the text ("light").
4. Identify the listed reference verse(s).
5. Look up the verse referenced (2 Corinthians 4:6).
6. Ask the question: What insight does this verse give that enriches my understanding?

7. Write down any insights and additional questions.
8. Another reference may be listed in your Bible's cross-reference of Genesis 1:3. See 1 John 1:5-7.
9. Again, ask the question: What insight does this verse give that enriches my understanding?
10. Write down any insights and additional questions once again.

Part 3

Navigational Tool #4: The Concordance

A Concordance is an alphabetized list of principle words in a book. A Bible's Concordance includes the book, chapter and verse where the words can be found. The Concordance is located in the back, usually preceding the maps. Each publishing company will create its own distinct list of words for its Bible's Concordance. Some Concordance lists consist of nouns and verbs while others include biblical towns and locations, and still others will list popular keywords, including the names of biblical characters. Some Concordances list all of the above. Usually, the Concordance in the back of our personal Bibles is incomplete. *Complete* Concordances are enormous books. These books list *every* place a particular word is found.

Note: The word that you are searching for will not be referenced in the passage. Only the italicized first letter of the word is indicated. For example, consider the word shepherd. After giving the reference of Psalm 23:1, the verse in the Concordance will read "Lord is my s, I shall not want." The small letter "s" represents the word "shepherd."

The remainder of this lesson we will work with the Concordance. The Concordance will assist you as a study tool in many ways. So, let's get started!

TEACHING: Uses of the Bible Concordance:

1. The Concordance will help locate a particular verse that contains a *specific word*. For example, if you want to find a verse and all you remember is the word "shepherd," simply look up "shepherd" in the Concordance and it will help you find the verse. You might know the verse "The Lord is my Shepherd" but don't know where it is found. By looking up the word "shepherd" in the Concordance, you will learn that those words are from Psalm 23:1.

EXERCISE: Now you try! The word is "treasure" and you remember the words "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Using the Concordance find where this passage is located. How did you do? Check your answer. It is found in Matthew 6:21.

2. The Concordance will help locate a *particular event* in the Bible. You know that Elijah went to heaven in a fiery chariot, but don't know where the story is told. If you look up the word "Elijah," you will find the story in 2 Kings 2:11-12.

EXERCISE: Your turn! The word is "Solomon" and you are trying to find the story when Solomon made a judgment between two prostitutes. Where is this story found? Again, check your answer. It is found in 1 Kings 3:16-28. Read the story for yourself!

Part 4

TEACHING: Uses of the Bible Concordance (continued):

3. The Concordance will help locate *other references* where a particular word is used. You now know that the word "shepherd" is found in Psalm 23:1. What are some other references to shepherd? The Concordance lists other passages where the word "shepherd" is used such as Isaiah 40:11 and John 10:11.

EXERCISE: The word is "feet" and you would like to find other references to "feet" as well. The Concordance lists feet (foot). Psalm 8:6, Psalm 119:105; Romans 10:15, and 1 Corinthians 12:21 are all referenced. Our work has just begun. First, look up the reference for each individual word and then in your notebook record what each verse says and begin to identify what you are learning about Scripture's use of the word "feet."

4. The Concordance will do a *word study*. For example, using the word "light," go to the Concordance to help find references throughout Scripture that refer to "light." The list is long but you will notice that the references begin in Genesis 1:3 and continue to be mentioned in several books all the way through Scripture to Revelation 22:5.

EXERCISE: The word is "sacrifice" and you are doing a word study. How many different books listed speak of sacrifices? What is the first and last book referenced?

5. The Concordance will help you understand the *meaning* of a particular word. Consider the word "disciple." We know that Jesus had disciples. What is a disciple? If you were asked to define the word, the Concordance would assist you with that assignment by listing references for you to check out.

EXERCISE: What is a disciple? What are the references and what understanding does each one give to the meaning of the word? Use your notebook to record your findings. Remember you are

asking Scripture to help you define the word. Suggestion: Use Matthew 28:19, John 8:31, John 13:35, and Luke 14:27.

In summary, you learned from Matthew 28 that God wants everyone to be a disciple regardless of ethnic background (all nations). You learned in John 8 that a disciple believes and follows the teaching of his Teacher and from John 13 that disciples love one another, because of their relationship with the Teacher who loves them. They also come into a relationship of love with others. And, in Luke 14 the individual learns that being a follower is not necessarily easy but knows that there's a cost to discipleship.

APPLICATION: Disciples study His Word. How would you see yourself becoming a disciple in the light of these verses? _____

PRAYER: I want to be a disciple. I want to follow You, Jesus. I want to learn from You and as I learn I want to grow in deeper relationship of love with you. Amen.

Part 5

TEACHING: Uses of the Bible Concordance (continued):

6. The Concordance will connect you with a *cross-reference*. Once you search out one location for a word you can connect with the cross-reference that will lead to others. Consider the word "Bethlehem." First, find it in the Concordance. One reference is given. For example, if I begin with Matthew 2:1, the first one listed in my Bible, I will find a cross-reference there. So, although the Concordance only gives me one reference, by working with the cross-reference I am able to find other places in Scripture that make reference to Bethlehem.

EXERCISE: The word is "circumcised." Find the reference in the Concordance. Once you have found the first, and possibly the only Concordance reference, look to see if a cross-reference small italicized letter is there to connect you to a network of other passages. Take time to follow the leads and record what you learn about circumcision in your notebook.

REVIEW:

1. You have been introduced to four tools for maneuvering through the Bible. Give yourself a moment to list them. Don't hesitate to use your notes!

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

2. How would you define the following terms?

- a. Old Testament: _____
- b. New Testament: _____
- c. Chapter: _____
- d. Verse: _____
- e. Passage or reference: _____
- f. The Pentateuch: _____
- g. Gospel: _____
- h. Parable: _____
- i. Epistle: _____

3. Write out two insights or learnings you gained from your study up to this point:

- a. _____
- b. _____

Part 1

INTRODUCTION: How does one take a section of the Bible and learn from it? How do the words take on personal meaning for one's life situations? In this lesson we will work on other tools for tackling the text and gleaning truths for personal application.

TEACHING: Questions are a way we begin to get-acquainted with people in our lives. They also are a way we develop relationships with new acquaintances. We begin with questions to draw them out and then we listen as they begin to reveal themselves to us. When we ask questions we anticipate that we will receive some understanding about them as a person.

In a way, it's like that with God. God enables us to get to know Him through the study of His Word. He invites us to ask questions, and then as we study the Bible He reveals Himself to us. He tells us about who He is and tells us how much He loves us. We ask questions and as we study the Bible we get-acquainted with Him and learn that He wants to have a meaningful relationship with us. In addition, He wants to help us and gives us guidelines on how to live our lives, on how to make right choices, and how to make decisions that will benefit us and others. We have the rest of our lives to get-acquainted with Him. Log your questions in your notebook or in the margins. Enjoy getting-acquainted!

Navigational Tool #5: Questions

Ask questions! Begin by determining if the section of the Bible you are studying is a *situation* or *event* or whether it is a *teaching*, such as a parable or writing from one of the Epistles. In Part 1 the questions and exercise will focus on questions pertaining to a *situation* or *event*. In Part 2 the focus will be questions pertaining to a *teaching*.

These questions will help you get started. Have fun asking questions and begin discovering answers!

TEACHING: Questions to ask if the section you are studying is a *situation* or an *event*:

1. Who is telling the story and why is he telling it?
2. Who are the characters?
3. What is the setting of the story?
4. At first glance, what is the message?
5. With which character do I identify?
6. What is the "mystery" of the story?

7. What does this story tell me about God? About humankind?
8. What are things I don't understand about the story?
9. What are the responses of the characters in the story?
10. What do I believe God is saying to me personally?

EXERCISE: It's time to try it on your own. Turn to the story found in Luke 13:10-17. Use the questions listed above for situations and events and begin to work the text. In your notebook write out the question and follow it with your response. If you don't know the answer to a question, simply say so and go on to the next.

APPLICATION: After working through the story in Luke 13:10-17 write out two questions you have asked yourself that attempt to answer the question: How does this story apply to me and to my life? An example of a question: In what way am I like this "bent-over" woman?

1. Question: _____
2. Question: _____

PRAYER: Sometimes, Lord, I feel bent over by the burden of sin and guilt in my life. I am unable to stand up straight. I hear You say to me, "_____ (my name), You are set free!" I'm released from my past. Now I can live my life standing tall, praising and thanking You, my Healer. Amen.

Part 2

TEACHING: Tool #5 was introduced in Part 1: Questions! The questions that we worked with focused on questions to ask when studying a situation or event. This part will center on questions to ask when working on a *teaching* of Jesus or words written by one of the Prophets, or the writers of one of the New Testament Epistles. Remember, before asking questions you first need to determine whether the section you are studying is a situation or an event or whether it is a teaching.

Questions to ask if the section you are studying is a *teaching*:

1. Who said these words?
2. What is a keyword(s), a repeated word, or phrase in this teaching?
3. How would this passage be written in today's language?
4. What are picture words I can use to help me understand?
5. What am I learning about my relationship with God?
6. Where in my life do these verses challenge me?

7. What does this passage reveal about the nature of God?
8. What are some questions I want to ask?
9. What truth do I believe God wants me to grasp?
10. What is my response to that truth?

EXERCISE: Now it's time again to try it on your own. Turn to the teaching recorded in Matthew 7:24-29. This time use the questions listed above for a *teaching*. Just like in the previous part, begin to work the text! In your notebook write out the question and follow it with your response. If you don't know the answer to a question, simply say so and go on to the next!

APPLICATION: After working through the teaching in Matthew 7:24-29 write out two questions you have asked yourself that attempt to answer the question: Where is the application of this teaching in my life? An example of a question: Have I chosen to build the house of my life on the sand or on the rock?

1. Question: _____
2. Question: _____

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I want my life built on You. You are the One who gives strength to my life. You are the One who enables me to endure even when the wind and rain pound and seek to destroy me. Thank You for being my Rock. Amen.

Part 3

Navigational Tool #6: Keywords and Phrases

Learn to be on the lookout for keywords and phrases in the section you are studying. Look for words that are repeated, the words that the writer or speaker wants to emphasize. Watch for picture words.

EXERCISE: Here are a few good examples of keywords and the importance of their repeated use for emphasis. See what you discover!

Reference	Keyword	Importance
2 Corinthians 1:3-7		

1 John 4:7-12		
John 4:13-14		

How did you do? From these three references we learn that comfort, love, and water are keywords in these verses. Each of these keywords is used to emphasize a teaching. The first teaching is written by St. Paul. He wants the Christians in Corinth to understand that true comfort comes from God. John in the Epistle, or letter, wants the reader to know that the love we have for each other flows out of the love God first had for us. And, in the Gospel of John, Jesus is telling the woman that He is the water of life and when He lives within us He gives us the water of *eternal* life.

Navigational Tool #7: The Setting

Learning the setting in which a story or event takes place can add understanding to the passage. For example, a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus takes place at night. What difference would it make that Nicodemus in John 3:1-2 came to Jesus at *night* and not in the middle of the day? The fact that it was night raises a few questions. Can we assume that he didn't want to be seen with Jesus? And, if he didn't want to be seen with Jesus, why not? Why did Nicodemus risk coming to see Jesus at all? What was so pressing that he would take the risk?

EXERCISE: These three references mention three different settings in which Jesus encountered people. What are the settings and what are some questions that give new thoughts and insights for understanding the situation?

Reference	Setting	Questions
Matthew 4:1		
Mark 1:35-37		

John 20:19-20		
---------------	--	--

Jesus was found in the desert, in a solitary place, and in a locked room where His disciples were hiding. Why was Jesus in each of these places? Matthew tells us that Jesus was in the desert to be tempted. Mark tells us that He went off by Himself to a desolate place to pray. And, John says that He stood among the disciples in the room and the first thing He said to them was “Peace.” Have you ever found yourself in a desert place, a place of temptation? Jesus meets you there. What about a lonely place? Have you found yourself in a place of solitude and aloneness and found Jesus there? Have you ever been in a situation where you felt “locked up” but you knew that Jesus had entered the circumstance and chose to stand there with you bringing a word of peace and reassurance? We all have different settings in our lives in which God finds us.

PRAYER: Jesus, You come to me in many different settings and situations. You come to make your presence real to me as I live my everyday life. Thank You for standing with me and enabling me to withstand temptation and fear. You are the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). Amen.

Part 4

REVIEW: In these lessons you have been equipped with seven different tools to help you navigate competently through the Bible. Some tools are easier to use than others. Some tools just take a little more practice but all of them are in your tool chest and at your disposal. As you read the Bible these tools are designed to help you find out what God is saying. He wants you to know of His great love for you in Jesus.

EXERCISE: So, let’s review! Write out all seven tools! Begin with Lesson 1.

1. _____ (Lesson 1)
2. _____ (Lesson 2)
3. _____ (Lesson 3)
4. _____ (Lesson 3)
5. _____ (Lesson 4)
6. _____ (Lesson 4)
7. _____ (Lesson 4)

TEACHING: *Discipline #1 – Bible Study*

It is important to understand that studying the Bible is a discipline. The athlete has many disciplines to follow when training for an event. The more disciplined the athlete the more likely the athlete will succeed in accomplishing the desired goal of winning and ultimately taking home the prize. A discipline is a deliberate choice to act as one in training. Giving ourselves a discipline challenges us to function within a structure or a framework, within boundaries, if you will. One comes under a discipline in order to bring about a greater good. God uses disciplines to shape and mold us in order to develop within us His character.

TEACHING: *Discipline #2 - Memorization*

In this lesson you will be challenged to another discipline. The discipline is memorization. Memorizing verses, even chapters, of the Bible puts God’s Word in our hearts and gives us “food for thought” as we go about living our daily lives. We want His Word to be on our minds. In order for it to be on our minds it must be learned. We need knowledge. We need to know what the words are, what the Bible says. Throughout this Bible study we are learning God’s Word. Now we have the challenge to take this learning a step further. The athlete, for example, reads the manual, wears the equipment, and burns with passion for the game. The athlete also knows the purpose of the game, has developed a strategy for playing the game, and has mastered the game plan so that the game is played with confidence and a high level of knowledge and skill.

EXERCISE: Consider the following verses and notice what they say about putting the Word of the Lord in our hearts.

Reference	Restate the verse(s) in your own words
Psalm 1:1-2	
Deuteronomy 6:6-9	
Psalm 119:11	
Proverbs 6:23	
Philippians 4:8-9	
Hebrews 4:12	

From these verses we learn:

1. God wants His Word in our heart and mind. We are to meditate on His Word day and night.
2. We learn that His Word is a tool for teaching our children to know and respect Him.
3. Psalm 119 reminds us that with His Word hidden in our hearts we are kept from offending God by sinning against Him.
4. In Proverbs we are reassured that His teachings, commands, and corrections are the way to life.
5. In Philippians we are encouraged to think of these things that are good and excellent for God's peace to come into our lives.
6. The writer of the Book of Hebrews wants us to understand that His Word is at work in us and will affect the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts.

The Bible encourages us to keep God's Word in our hearts and on our lips. A verse or two each week adds up to a library of wisdom that your heart will hold and have available to you at a moment's notice. What an exciting challenge! Are you ready? Let's start building our memory library.

TEACHING: Suggestions for memorizing...

1. Locate the passage.
2. Write the passage on a 3x5 or 4x6 card for easy access.
3. Enjoy the challenge of memorizing!
4. Find the opportunity to share what you have memorized with someone, maybe a child or a friend.
5. Some verses have great picture images. Consider the lamp from Psalm 119:105 as a guide and the light as a means of dispersing darkness.
6. Write "thought notes" on your card when thoughts come to mind as you meditate on the Word. This may include questions or insights or ways in which these words might be applied to your life today.

Example:

Psalm 142:7 – "Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!"

Thought note: The Lord wants me to live free with nothing binding me. He wants me to be free to praise Him. What does it mean to "thank" and praise Him? How do I do that?

Prayer: Lord, set me free from anything that would keep me from thanking You. Teach me how to praise You!

EXERCISE:

1. Memorize Psalm 119:105. Follow the “Suggestions for memorizing” in the Teaching.
2. Another interesting challenge for memorizing is to memorize the order of the 66 books of the Bible.
 - a. Keep in mind that if you memorize 11 books per day in 6 days the challenge would be complete?
 - b. A different method would be to memorize 6 books per day and the challenge would be met in 11 days! Go for it! You can do it!
 - c. Here’s a suggestion: Memorize the books of the Bible in order using 66 index cards. Write the names of the books on one side. Number the other side of the cards in order. Shuffle the deck and keep working to put the cards in the right order!

Part 5

TEACHING: *Discipline #3 – Prayer*

We have talked about the study and memorization of God’s Word to be to meaningful disciplines. This lesson will introduce a third discipline, the discipline of prayer. In Lesson 5 we will learn more about prayer and growing deeper in our understanding and appreciation of this gift God has given to us. As we grow in our understanding we will cultivate our relationship with Him. God uses the written word, the Bible, as a means of communicating with us. Prayer is God’s invitation for us to converse with Him.

DEFINITION: Prayer is an act of worship in which we communicate with God. Books and papers of all sorts have been written on prayer. The subject is inexhaustible. For our purposes in this study let’s keep it uncomplicated and straightforward.

TEACHING: A few introductory comments...

1. *God invites us to pray.* The invitation to come into the presence of God Almighty is given to us by God Himself. Write out Psalm 50:15. _____

2. *God promises to hear our prayer.* Write out 1 John 5:14. _____

3. *God promises to answer our prayers.* Write out 1 John 5:15. _____

4. *God comes behind the closed door to be alone with us and to receive our prayers.* Write out Matthew 6:6. _____
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PRAYER: Thank You for inviting me to talk with You. Thank You for promising to hear the thoughts and desires of my heart. Thank You for promising to hear me cry out to You when I feel so helpless and alone. I am grateful that You know and understand the hidden things I hold in my heart. Thank You for loving me in spite of what You know about me. Amen.

Part 1**TEACHING: Prayer**

The balance between listening and speaking is critical for any healthy relationship. Sometimes we speak and other times we listen. As these skills are developed and practiced relationships move to deeper levels of safety, acceptance, understanding, and insight. When we speak we often gain understanding about ourselves and others in what can be referred to as ‘aha!’ moments. “I get it!” “I understand!” “I haven’t thought of that before!” These are common expressions of ‘aha!’ moments in our lives. ‘Aha!’ moments also happen in prayer. As we begin to verbalize things on our hearts, God through the truths He has given in His Word and by the working of His Spirit, gives us insight, discernment, wisdom, understanding, and discipline for living life abundantly as His children.

Prayer is a significant part of one’s devotional life. God speaks through His Word and we listen. Then the time comes when we speak and God listens. Prayer is hard work. It is easy to say “hi” and “good-bye” to God. It is also easy for a child to grunt or use other means of expression to communicate with a parent. However, a memorable time for the parent-child relationship is when the child bares his or her soul and candidly shares all. The burden is now shared and the child is released to live a life uplifted and free. Another memorable time for the parent-child relationship might be when the child includes the parent in something to be celebrated, such as an athletic achievement, the birth of a new brother or sister, a high grade in a difficult class, or acceptance into college. We can all list countless things to celebrate.

If prayer is something new for you, a helpful tool for learning how to pray is to memorize these four words and use them daily to help you grow in your relationship with the Lord in prayer:

1. Adoration

- a. *DEFINITION: Adoration* is the act of admiring God for who He is and worshipping or reverencing Him with acts and behaviors, attitudes, and expressions consistent with that admiration.
- b. Some words of adoration are: praise, honor, glorify, exalt.

2. Confession

- a. *DEFINITION: Confession* is acknowledging our human condition before God without the attempt to keep secret or to hide from God or ourselves the reality of our sinful condition and the sin we have committed against Him and others.

- b. Some words of confession are: repent, admit, acknowledge

3. Thanksgiving

- a. *DEFINITION: Thanksgiving* is the expression of gratitude to God offered as our worship in which we affirm and acknowledge the outpouring of His favor on our lives.
- b. Some words of thanksgiving are: grateful, give thanks.
- c. *DEFINITION: Worship* has its roots in the word “worthiness” and is the act of paying honor to God above anyone or anything else.

4. Supplication

- a. *DEFINITION: Supplication* is the prayerful act of coming before God with the concerns of our heart. Most often those concerns are expressed by asking or petitioning God regarding a personal need or circumstance or sharing with Him concerns for someone else.
- b. Some words of supplication are: ask, petition, request, plead.

The first letter of each word spells the word “ACTS.” Using each of these four words will help to keep your prayer life healthy and balanced, a prayer life that not only asks but also remembers others and their situations. God gives us His Word to help us pray. We can use His Word to know for what things we are to pray.

In each of the four remaining parts of this lesson we will consider one of the A.C.T.S. words and use them as guides in prayer. As you consider adoration, for example, the biblical references will help guide you. These references are only to help you get started in your adventure of prayer. Use your notebook to list additional prayers and thoughts that come to mind. Do not hesitate to refer back to the definitions for recall and understanding of these terms.

Part 2

TEACHING: *Adoration* is simply praising and thanking the Lord for Who He is. As you progress with your study you will increase your understanding of who God is. Think for a moment of something you have learned about Him already from one of the references you have read.

PRAYER: Lord, I praise and thank You for Who You are. Thank You for being a God of light who disperses darkness and brings understanding to my life.

EXERCISE: Complete these sentence prayers:

1. I thank You that You are _____ See 1 John 4:16.

2. I thank You that You are _____ See Exodus 34:6-7a.
3. I thank You that You are _____ See John 21:17b.
4. Additional prayer thoughts...
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

Part 3

TEACHING: *Confession* is admitting to oneself that God knows those things in our lives that keep us separated from Him. He invites us to let Him free us from all of our guilt and offers us a life lived openly before Him.

PRAYER: Lord, I know myself all too well. I know that I am a sinner. I confess to You that I have not treated others lovingly.

EXERCISE: Complete these sentence prayers:

1. Lord, I confess to You _____ See Romans 12:3.
2. Lord, I confess to You _____ See Romans 12:16.
3. Lord, I confess to You _____ See Romans 12:17.
4. Additional prayer thoughts...
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

Part 4

TEACHING: *Thanksgiving!* We have all written notes of thanks. “Thank you” is something we all long to hear. Saying thank you says that you appreciate someone for who they are or for what they have done. Thank you says to the other person that he or she has touched your life in a significant way. We may be quick to remember a time when someone thanked us for something we didn’t even remember doing. We can recall a time when a thank you from someone affirmed our character or was particularly meaningful. It is good for us to thank God for who He is and for what He has done. It is good to thank Him for the many ways in which He touches our lives through people and circumstances. He, too, longs to hear our words of gratitude. Just as we train a child to say “thank you” because it is good for the child to remember, so it is with us. When we say thank you we remember all that He has done for us.

PRAYER: Lord, I come before You with a grateful heart.

EXERCISE: Simply say “thank you.” It’s so easy!

1. Lord, I thank You in _____ See 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
2. Lord, I thank You for _____ Psalm 103:3.
3. Lord, I thank You for _____ Ephesians 2:8-9.
4. Additional prayer thoughts...
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

Part 5

TEACHING: *Supplication* prayers do not mean that we are going to share something that He doesn’t already know, as though we are going to tell Him something new. He knows all things (John 21:17). Rather, prayer is for our benefit. Prayer is God’s invitation for us to come to Him and willingly share everything on our heart (Psalm 55:22). The experience is similar to the picture of a child who believes that the parent will provide a safe place in which to speak openly and honestly, is eager to listen, and can solve the most impossible situation.

EXERCISE: Complete these sentence prayers:

1. Lord, I need _____
2. Lord, I need _____
3. Lord, I/my friend need(s) _____
4. Additional prayer thoughts...
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

The Lord never intended prayer to be intimidating or threatening. Quite the contrary, prayer is a privilege. It is a time when God invites us to come before Him just as we are. He is eager to hear whatever it is we want to share with Him. He is honored that we come to talk with Him (Psalm 50:15). Enjoy growing in your prayer relationship with God.

Part 1

TEACHING: Prayer – Going deeper!

We have spent an extra amount of time addressing the subject of prayer. Sometimes we hesitate to pray because we feel unworthy. Other times we don't know what to say and we question how to say it because we've been led to believe that there's a certain format for prayer. Another struggle that makes prayer seem impossible is that we've heard others pray, maybe at church, on television, or in some public setting and we allow ourselves to become intimidated thinking that others will judge our conversations with God as either thumbs up (good) or thumbs down (bad). Keep in mind that prayer enriches your relationship with God. Our time in prayer gives us the opportunity to be authentic people before Him. Prayer allows us to draw close to God and enter into His very presence.

In his letters, St. Paul shared with the churches some of his prayers that model for us prayers that we can pray for ourselves and others as well. First, enjoy reading these prayers written for the churches and individuals Paul knew. Now read the prayers again and consider how you might pray these prayers for your own life. Finally, read the prayers as prayers you are praying for others.

EXERCISE:

Biblical reference	Paul prayed for	Your prayer for you	Your prayer for others
Example: Philippians 1:9-11	<i>Church in Philippi</i>	<i>That my love may abound more and more with knowledge and all discernment...</i>	<i>That my child's, spouse's, friend's (use a name) love may abound more and more in knowledge...</i>
Colossians 1:9			
1 Thessalonians 1:2-3			
2 Timothy 1:3-4			
Example: Ephesians 6:19	<i>St. Paul asking the Ephesians to pray for him</i>	<i>Pray that when I open my mouth, I will boldly proclaim the mystery of the Gospel...</i>	<i>That my pastor, brother, boss will fearlessly speak of Jesus</i>

As you continue to study, begin to observe how different verses can be used to enrich your own personal prayer life. Your notebook will be a tool for you to record the passages and allow you to refer back to those passages during your prayer time.

Part 2

TEACHING: To conclude this introduction to prayer let’s look at some prayers recorded in the Bible. Use your pen to mark words and phrases in the actual text that are particularly meaningful for you. Don’t be concerned that you don’t understand everything that the particular person has included in their prayer. That’s not the point of this exercise. This is just an opportunity to discover prayers of others that are included in the Bible and to learn different ways prayers can be said.

EXERCISE:

Biblical reference	Who is praying? What’s the occasion?	A meaningful word, phrase or verse for you
2 Samuel 22:2-51		
I Kings 8:22-53		
Genesis 18:22-33		
John 2:3		
Matthew 26:39		
Luke 23:42		

Part 3

TEACHING: Discovering the familiar can be fun. Some of the passages and stories found in the Bible are somewhat familiar to you. For example, television programs and movies have made us aware of the Exodus and the Ten Commandments. Almost every funeral portrayed by Hollywood includes the reading of the twenty-third Psalm. At NFL games on Sunday afternoons, undoubtedly we notice that someone has created and posted an enormous sign with the inscription of John 3:16, “For God so loved the

world...” or the words from John 14:6, “I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life...” And, we’ve all heard the Christmas story while watching Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang perform their seasonal special.

EXERCISE: The exercises for the remaining parts are designed to give you the opportunity to locate and read for yourself a few of these familiar documents, verses, and stories. You will want to note where the biblical passage is recorded, mark the place in your Bible for future reference, and record for yourself something new or interesting you discover or a question you may have. Although your questions are left unanswered for now, you can log them for study at a later date. Use a highlighter to mark those in the first column that you recognize. Enjoy your reading! Attempt to recall where you learned or heard the story or event.

Document/story/event	Biblical reference	Personal points of interest
The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1-17 Deuteronomy 5:1-22	a. b.
The Lord’s Prayer	Matthew 6:-15 Luke 11:1-4	a. b.
The 23 rd Psalm	Psalm 23	a. b.
The Beatitudes	Matthew 5:3-12	a. b.
The Love Chapter	1 Corinthians 13:4-13	a. b.

Part 4

EXERCISE: More familiar stories and events...

Document/story/event	Biblical reference	Personal points of interest
John 3:16, 17	John 3:16, 17	a. b.
Jesus' first miracle	John 2:1-11	a. b.
Daniel in the lions' den	Daniel 6:1-28	a. b.

Part 5

EXERCISE: Still more familiar stories and events...

Document/story/event	Biblical reference	Personal points of interest
The Birth of Jesus	Luke 2:1-20	a. b.
The Great Commission	Matthew 28:16-20	a. b.

EXERCISE: If you can, list some other stories, events, or additional biblical references that are familiar to you. Use the tool of the concordance and attempt to locate where these other discoveries are found in the Bible.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

UNIT REVIEW

NAVIGATING THE BIBLE

This is NOT a test! Sometimes it is encouraging to assess one's learning. We become more confident and are persuaded to press on. You have completed the Bible study entitled *Navigating the Bible*. Let's consider some of the things you've been working on:

- ✓ Recognizing the Bible's authors, purpose, and origin
- ✓ Knowing the languages of origin
- ✓ Positioning books into the Old and New Testaments
- ✓ Recognizing how the books in the Bible are organized into groups
- ✓ Distinguishing different writing styles
- ✓ Locating familiar documents, passages, and stories
- ✓ Valuing the use of tools for Bible study
- ✓ Utilizing tools to competently maneuver through the Book
- ✓ Utilizing tools to competently maneuver through a specific text
- ✓ Developing a budding vocabulary list
- ✓ Increasing the selection of verses memorized
- ✓ Maturing in knowledge of prayer
- ✓ Setting time aside each day for study
- ✓ Valuing a relationship with another student
- ✓ Growing each week with another student

Some key results may have occurred because of your study discipline:

1. You have an increased knowledge of the Bible as a book.
2. You have been trained to effectively utilize some practical tools.
3. You have determined a personal study schedule.
4. You have connected with one other committed student.

Congratulations! You are becoming a committed, equipped, connected, and competent *navigator* of the Book!

Additional CrossConnect Bible study downloads are available at no cost.

Visit the ministry's web site: www.crosscm.org.

Let us hear from you!

Contact us: admin@crosscm.org