

# COMPLETE CHEAT CHARTS FOR BIBLE READINGS

Name \_\_\_\_\_ CHARTING - BIBLE BOOK CHART Date \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT	MEANING	APPLY

QUESTIONS

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Date

WHAT	MEANING	APPLY

QUESTIONS

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WHAT	MEANING	APPLY

QUESTIONS

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**Recommend** printing and keeping copies in your Bible for reference and guidance.

A book chart will help you write down what the text says and means, and to tackle questions such as: *Who? What? Where? When? How? and Why?*

*What does this passage say about God? About me? My sin? My struggles? My opportunities?*

*What is my example to follow? What Fruit, Discipline, and Character do I need in order to develop and operate?*

*What are the sins I need to avoid? What is my call and duty to carry out?*

*What promise does He have for me to receive? What prayer do I need to offer?*

**Then write down your reflections in first person singular because it applies to you.**

# NEW CHRISTIANS OR NEW TO THE BIBLE

## BIBLE READING CHEAT STARTER

### OBSERVE

- Who was this written to?
- What is happening in the passage?
- When and where did this take place?
- Why did the author write this?

### INTERPRET

- What would the original hearers have thought?
- How does this fit in with the greater story of the Bible?
- Are there other parts of scripture that help you understand this passage?

### APPLY

- What does this tell about who God is?
- What does this tell you about your sin and need for a Savior?
- How might these truths transform your life today?

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A book chart will help you write down what the text says and means, and to tackle questions such as: *Who? What? Where? When? How? and Why?*

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*What are the sins I need to avoid? What is my call and duty to carry out?*

*What promise does He have for me to receive? What prayer do I need to offer?*

Then write down your reflections in first person singular because it applies to you.

# PARENT'S BIBLE READING CHEAT CHART FOR KIDS

## READ

Read a portion of scripture with your child. Remind them of simple truths such as:

- The Bible is true.
- The Bible is the most special book.
- The Bible is God's word, written for us to know Him more.

Remind them to listen carefully because this passage will tell them important things about who God is, who we are, and what God's plan is for us in Jesus.

## OBSERVE

Ask your child comprehension questions to help them recall important details about the passage. Focus on:

- Location, characters and actions.
- Memorable/notable events – especially about who God is and what his plan is for people.

## INTERPRET

Make note of any questions your children have. These questions might be the only conversation starters you need to have some important lightbulb moments. If they are stuck, consider asking:

- "Why do you think God put this in the Bible?"
- "How does what we read in this story show God cares?"
- "How does this show us Jesus?"

## APPLY

Encourage your kids to think about how this text applies to their everyday lives. Have fun brainstorming! This can also become a time of confession with one another, encouraging each other towards good words/deeds, offering affirmation to other family members and even openly sharing the gospel.

## A STARTER'S GUIDE BIBLE READING CHEAT CHART

**Recommend** printing pdf and keeping copies in your Bible for reference and guidance.

<p><b>Scripture:</b> Chapter and Paragraph Titles?  <b>PRAY</b>, direct your will, make a commitment; Look at the whole book, then Chapters, &amp; then verses  <b>STEP I &amp; II:</b>  <b>PRAY &amp; HOW</b></p>	<p><b>Observations:</b>                  What Does it Say? Give the "looks" observe grammar &amp; literary style  <b>STEP III:</b>  <b>OBSERVE IT</b></p>	<p><b>Observations:</b>                  What Does it mean? Ask questions, be aware of making errors, use "tools," implications, " who what where, when, how, &amp; why"  <b>STEP IV:QUESTIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Application:</b> How Does It Apply to Me? Make an emotional identification! Look for the answers, dig personally, let it effect you!  <b>STEP V &amp; VI:</b>  <b>KNOW IT &amp; APPLY</b></p>
<p><b>Passage:</b> _____                  Key Verse(s):                  Key Word(s):</p>	<p><b>Biblical Statements:</b></p>	<p><b>My Questions:</b></p>	<p><b>What Will I Do:</b>  <b>When Will I Do It?</b>  <b>BE OBEDIENT!!!</b></p>

List Other Information and Prayer Times:

<p><b>Scripture:</b> Chapter and Paragraph Titles?  <b>PRAY</b>, direct your will, make a commitment; Look at the whole book, then Chapters, &amp; then verses  <b>STEP I &amp; II:</b>  <b>PRAY &amp; HOW</b></p>	<p><b>Observations:</b>                  What Does it Say? Give the "looks" observe grammar &amp; literary style  <b>STEP III:</b>  <b>OBSERVE IT</b></p>	<p><b>Observations:</b>                  What Does it mean? Ask questions, be aware of making errors, use "tools," implications, " who what where, when, how, &amp; why"  <b>STEP IV:QUESTIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Application:</b> How Does It Apply to Me? Make an emotional identification! Look for the answers, dig personally, let it effect you!  <b>STEP V &amp; VI:</b>  <b>KNOW IT &amp; APPLY</b></p>
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List Information & Prayer Times:      *"I hear and forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand."*

## COMPREHENSIVE BIBLE READING METHOD CHEAT

*"THE MAIN GOAL OF BIBLE STUDY: DON'T JUST INTERPRET IT, BUT APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE!!!"*

### **STEP I: "KNOWING THE KNOWABLE:" BRINGING OUR MIND TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD!**

**ATTITUDE is crucial!!!** ([Galatians 2:20](#))

- .. REMEMBER TO ALWAYS: BEGIN and END YOUR STUDY IN PRAYER and in the meantime be in prayer.
- .. DIRECT YOUR WILL AND SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!!! BE CONSISTENT!!!.
- .. BE OPEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

### **STEP II: "HOW:" THE METHOD OF GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD**

**LOOK AT THE WHOLE BOOK** at least three times in an easy to read translation. Then read each chapter you are studying in a good translation at least three times. Then read the verses, verse by verse in order.

### **STEP III: "OBSERVE IT:" ASK WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

Before you ask what does it mean and how to apply it to your life!

- .. Give the Book the "Looks:" Purpose; Repeated Phrases; The Point; Who is involved; The time & sequence of events, "once, then, now, will be, etc." Look for persons, places, ideas; Logical Connectives, i.e. Therefore, But, Since, So, Thus, Because, For, That, etc. What is actually being said?
- .. Verbs are crucial! Check out **NOUNS** in "Bible Dictionaries."
- .. Consider repeated words & phrases.
- .. Compare passage/verse to similar verses i.e. "Scripture interprets scripture." Use a "Concordance."
- .. Notice what is being taught
- .. Notice the promises
- .. Notice carefully the underlining principle(s) & implications
- .. What about the life, work, teaching, presence of Jesus Christ?
- .. Look out for types of "literary style;" history, philosophy, drama, poetry, wisdom and law.
- .. Look at different translations

### **STEP III (B): "OBSERVE IT:" ASK WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

**Let God have His way with you!** Ask our Lord to open you before Him, to allow yourself to go beyond your culture, education and experience! Then the meaning will come alive!

- .. We must know our weaknesses and limitations because of sin!
- .. We must be aware of our nature and the nature of Scripture and the Divine Authors intent.
- .. Be focused on Christ not ourselves.
- .. Be aware of the **CONTEXT**!!!!!! The "historical" and "literary" settings?" What is going on?
- .. What is the point and train of thought?
- .. **ANALYZE** by gathering facts and all the information available to you.
- .. Paraphrase the passage yourself.

- .. What is supported?
- .. What are the conclusions?

Make an emotional identification into the text.

### **THINGS TO ASK AND TO APPLY:**

- .. Ask what is actually being said?
- .. Try reading aloud!
- .. Consider nothing insignificant!
- .. Have a mentor to ask questions.
- .. Look for stuff to carry out in your life.
- .. Write down your questions.
- .. What are the implications & promises to be applied to transformed us?
- .. What about the life, work, teaching, and presence of Jesus Christ?
- .. How can I model His Character?
- .. What is our duty?
- .. What is God's character?
- .. Make a commitment to the meaning.
- .. Try to write the verse or entire passage in your own words!
- .. Accept what It says: This is God's Word!

### **STEP IV: "QUESTIONS:" ASK AND LEARN!!**

THE SIX BIG Q'S WE MUST ALWAYS ASK!

- .. **WHO:** are the people? Who did it? Who can do it? Who is it talking about?
- .. **WHAT:** is it saying? What is happening? What is it talking about? What did they do?
- .. **WHERE:** are they going? Where did it happen? Where will it take place?
- .. **WHEN:** did it happen? When will it happen? When can it happen?
- .. **HOW:** did it happen? How can it happen? How was something done?
- .. **WHY:** did he say that? Why did he do that? Why did they go there?

### **ASK THESE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:**

- .. Are there any commands?
- .. Are there any contrasts?
- .. Are there things repeated?
- .. Is there cause and effect?
- .. Is there a problem and solution?
- .. Are there any promises?
- .. Are there any connections to other parts of the Bible?
- .. Notice the setting!

### **STEP V: "KNOW IT"!!! START LOOKING FOR THE ANSWERS**

## “ WHAT DOES SOMETHING MEAN AND WHY IS IT THERE?

- “ Be sure your information is correct!!!
- “ Use good commentaries, Study Bibles, and Bible dictionaries.

### **Digging Personally:**

- “ How are you encouraged & strengthened?
- “ Where have you fallen short, and how can you improve?
- “ What do you now intend to do with the information given to you?
- “ We must have the confidence that the Bible is truth! This is knowing It!
- “ We must allow God's Word to break our will and desires over to His!
- “ What did God say to you today?
- “ Is there a sin in your life that needs to be confessed and repented?
- “ Are you appreciating it?
- “ Are you receiving and practicing the great benefits to others around you?
- “ Are you a changed person as a result of receiving the Word?

### **STEP VI: "APPLICATION!!!"** ([Gal 5:21-26](#))

- “ Application comes out of a Changed life. And leads to a life transformed!
- “ What must I do to make God's Word real in me? What is my response?
- “ When will it end up in my day planner?
- “ Mediate over the passage

### **ASK YOURSELF THESE FIVE QUESTIONS:**

- “ What illustration can I use to remember?
- “ How does the truth apply to my life?
- “ What is my personal prayer regarding these truths?
- “ What changes/improvements could I make in light of the truth?
- “ How should I carry out these changes?
- “ **Pray** to ask God how to implement His truth to you. Tell Others. Accountability.

### **STEP VII: MAKE USE OF THE BOOK CHART**

Write down what God is saying to you and what you have discovered and learned. By doing this, it will allow you to apply it to your life better!

### **"YOU CAN DO IT!!**

**Recommend** printing pdf and keeping copies in your Bible for reference and guidance.

# CHRISTIANS BIBLE READING CHEAT SHEET

## **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

As you work through the text, note any questions you have.

Read the entire text for comprehension. Read again, this time marking:

- Key words
- Times, locations and people
- Repeated words, ideas and phrases
- Transition words (but, therefore, because, likewise, if/then ...)
- Lists
- Contrasts and comparisons
- Commands

Read again, marking major themes such as:

- Gospel Truths
- New Self / Identity
- The Great Commission
- The Great Commandment
- The Church
- Redemptive Promises
- "Types" of Jesus

Use the dictionary to look up key words, note appropriate meanings and related words. Consult different translations of scripture.

Look up related cross-references.

## **INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?**

- What would the original hearers have thought?
- How does this passage fit within the greater story of the Bible? (Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration)
- Paraphrase: Rewrite the text in your own words.
- Consult reliable commentaries.

## **APPLICATION: HOW DOES THE TEXT CHANGE ME?**

- What does this passage tell you about who God is?
- What does this passage tell you about your sin and need for a Savior?
- How can these truths transform your life today?
- Remember that all actions begin as thoughts and desires of the heart.
- How do these truths transform what you love, worship and value most?

- In turn, how will these renewed desires change the way you respond to God and others?
- Are there practical things God is leading you to do differently as your heart changes?
- What might these truths look like in action?
- Is the Holy Spirit bringing to mind specific people, circumstances, conversations or sins to mind for prayer, repentance or reconciliation?

If possible, discuss your process and what you're learning with a group of believers. Even the most mature believers have questions after studying the Bible in this way. Discussing themes, questions, observations and conclusions with can illuminate things you missed and challenge hidden biases.

### **GOSPEL TRUTHS:**

What does the text say (explicitly or implicitly) about the gospel message? Look for statements about God's holiness, man's sin, redemption through Christ, and our future hope in the full restoration of creation.

### **NEW SELF / IDENTITY:**

What does the text say about who we are in Christ, after we are filled with his Holy Spirit and living free from the penalty of sin? Often, this is seen in context of our "old self," in passages that compare and contrast qualities of a believer versus an unbeliever.

### **THE GREAT COMMISSION:**

What does the text say about Jesus' command to go and make disciples of all nations? ([Matthew 28:16-20](#)) Where and how does this text encourage us to love our neighbor, witness to unbelievers, and help other believers mature in the faith?

### **THE GREAT COMMANDMENT:**

What does the text say about loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength? ([Matthew 22:37](#)) What does this love look like and how do we obtain it?

### **THE CHURCH:**

What does the text say about God's establishment of, purpose for, and mission for the church (globally and locally)? It's sometimes helpful to note where a passage is speaking to the church (general), the church (specific), or a believer (as an individual).

### **REDEMPTIVE PROMISES:**

What does the text say about God's promises to us as redeemed followers of Jesus? What can we look forward to, be confident of, and have unchanging hope in? "TYPES" OF JESUS: How do the main characters or themes in the passage point back – or forward – to the person and work of Jesus? (As the Jesus Storybook Bible says, "Every story whispers His name.")

**"TYPES" OF JESUS:** How do the main characters or themes in the passage point back – or forward – to the person and work of Jesus?

# A STARTER'S GUIDE TO READING THE BIBLE - CHEAT SHEET

## Where to Begin?

Many of us love the idea of Bible study, but struggle knowing where to begin. I want to offer some suggestions that I have found to be of great benefit. My hope is that these will serve you in your lifelong pursuit of knowing Christ better through the study of his Word.

### Before You Study:

Pick a trustworthy English translation, such as the New International (NIV),ESV, or NASB.

Select a book of the Bible to study. If you are new to Bible study, I suggest you begin with a shorter epistle, such as 1 John or Colossians. If you are a new believer, begin with one of the Gospels, such as the Gospel of John or the Gospel of Mark, to learn about the life of Jesus.

Set apart a journal/notebook for your study. You may want to print out the book of the Bible you are studying, and put it into a binder if you prefer to mark up the pages.

Choose a consistent time, if possible, to develop the regular habit of spending time with Jesus.

Remember, every time you open the Word to do Bible study you are encountering the living God! Therefore, always pray before beginning and ask the Holy Spirit to speak powerfully to you through God's Word.

### As You Study:

Get an overall "feel" for the book you are studying.

- Read straight through the book (in one sitting if possible).
- Read through the same book in another translation.
- Determine the literary genre(s) of the book.
- Find out where the book fits into the overarching storyline of Scripture.

Determine the "who, what, where, when, and why" of the book. In the beginning, a study Bible that has an overview of the book will be useful for getting this information. (Note: You may not be able to answer every question as some ancient dates and locations remain uncertain.)

- Who wrote the book and to whom was it written?
- What is the general theme of the book?
- Where did it take place (the location of the author, audience, and events)?
- When did it take place (the date of events and date of composition)?
- Why was it written (i.e., what's the purpose of the book)?

Start working your way through the book one passage at a time

- Break the book into "bite size" pieces. It's helpful to follow the natural breaks within the text itself as you study a couple of verses or passages (depending on the book and its genre) every day.
- Use the Bible study method provided to study your passage each day.

## A STARTER'S GUIDE TO BIBLE READING METHOD

### STEP 1. OBSERVE

**Read Text:** Read through your passage at least 2-3 times. You may want to read it in a different translation to see some of the nuances from the original languages.

**Make Observations:** Take time to slow down and observe the content in the text.

- Consider the content in the passage. Are there any key words? Repeated phrases or ideas? Purpose statements? Cause and effect relationships? Main characters? Important conjunctions? Metaphors? Comparisons/contrasts? A particular tone and mood?
- Notice the structure (the flow) of the text. How has the author organized the passage?
- Write down (or mark up on your printed pages) everything you observe about the text and any questions you have.

### STEP 2. INTERPRET

**Consider Context:** Think about how the context impacts the main idea(s) being communicated in and through the text. The goal is to find the author's intended meaning.

- *The Literary Context*—What kind of writing is this? How does its genre impact meaning?
- *The Historical Context*—What is the particular historical and cultural setting to which the author is writing? What are the circumstances under which the book was written? (It's helpful to refer back to the Who, What, Where, When, Why.)
- *The Immediate Context*—What happened immediately before and after your passage? What is the relationship of your passage to the surrounding sentences and paragraphs?
- *The Redemptive-Historical Context*—Where does your passage fit into the whole storyline of Scripture? How does this passage relate to Jesus?

**Write Summary:** Taking the *content* and *the context* into account, write a summary sentence (or a couple sentences) that conveys the main idea(s) of the passage.

### STEP 3. APPLY

**Consider Implications:** Are there any principles in the passage that are true *for all of God's people, in all places, at all times*? Look for these "timeless truths" as you do application.

**Apply Text:** Apply the main idea(s) of the text to your life. This involves *being, thinking, and doing*. It's a whole-person process. Encountering the living God should transform you!

- What does this passage teach you about God and his salvation in Christ? How should that affect your whole person—who you are, how you think, what you do, the manner in which you speak, the things you desire, your inner motivations, etc.?
- Are there any direct statements in this passage (such as commands, encouragements, challenges, or affirmations) that speak to you where you are right now?
- How does the meaning of the text apply to different "spheres" of your life—your life, your family and friends' lives, your church, your community, your city, and your world?

**How will you respond to God's Word today?** Be incredibly specific and personal!

## BIBLE READING CHEAT SHEET

*THE MAIN GOAL OF BIBLE STUDY: DON'T JUST INTERPRET IT, BUT APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE!!!*

STEP I: Pray: **"KNOWING THEKNOWABLE:"**  
BRINGING OUR MIND TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD!

**ATTITUDE is crucial!!!** (Gal. 2:20)

REMEMBER TO ALWAYS: BEGIN and END YOUR STUDY IN PRAYER and in the meantime be in prayer.  
DIRECT YOUR WILL AND SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!!! BE CONSISTENT!!!  
BE OPEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

**STEP II: Read: "HOW:" THE METHOD OF GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD**

**LOOK AT THE WHOLE BOOK** at least three times in an easy to read translation. Then read each chapter you are studying in a good translation at least three times. Then read the verses, verse by verse in order.

**STEP III: "OBSERVE IT:" ASK WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY?!** Before you ask what does it mean and how to apply it to your life!

Give the Book the "Looks:" Purpose; Repeated Phrases; The Point; Who is involved; The time & sequence of events, "once, then, now, will be, etc." Look for persons, places, ideas; Logical Connectives, i.e. Therefore, But, Since, So,

Thus, Because, For, That, etc. What is actually being said?

Verbs are crucial! Check out **NOUNS** in "Bible Dictionaries."

Consider repeated words & phrases.

Compare passage/verse to similar verses i.e. "Scripture interprets scripture." Use a "Concordance."

Notice what is being taught

Notice the promises

Notice carefully the underlining principle(s) & implications

What about the life, work, teaching, presence of Jesus Christ?

Look out for types of "literary style;" history, philosophy, drama, poetry, wisdom and law.

Look at different translations

**STEP IV: "SCRUTINIZE IT:" ASK WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE MEAN?**

**Let God have His way with you!** Ask our Lord to open you before Him, to allow yourself to go beyond your culture, education and experience! Then the meaning will come alive!

**Q: What is God telling me?**

We must know our weaknesses and limitations because of sin!

We must be aware of our nature and the nature of Scripture and the Divine Authors intent.

Be focused on Christ not ourselves.

Be aware of the CONTEXT!!!! The "historical" and "literary" settings?" What is going on?

What is the point and train of thought?

ANALYZE by gathering facts and all the information available to you.

Paraphrase the passage yourself.

What is supported?

What are the conclusions?

**Q: How am I encouraged and strengthened?**

**Make an emotional identification into the text.**

Place yourself into the text as if it is your story as if you are there!

**THINGS TO ASK AND TO APPLY:**

Ask what is actually being said?

Try reading aloud!

Consider nothing insignificant!

Have a mentor to ask questions.

Look for stuff to carry out in your life.

Write down your questions

What are the implications & promises to be applied to transformed us?

What about the life, work, teaching, and presence of Jesus Christ?

How can I model His Character?

What is our duty?

What is God's character?

Make a commitment to the meaning.

Try to write the verse or entire passage in your own words!

Accept what It says: This is God's Word!

**Q: Is there a sin in my life for which confession and repentance is needed?**

**STEP V: "QUESTIONS:" ASK AND LEARN!!!**

**Q: How can I be changed so I can learn and grow?**

**THE SIX BIG Q'S WE MUST ALWAYS ASK!**

**WHO:** are the people? Who did it? Who can do it? Who is it talking about?

**WHAT:** is it saying? What is happening? What is it talking about? What did they do?

**WHERE:** are they going? Where did it happen? Where will it take place?

**WHEN:** did it happen? When will it happen? When can it happen?

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**WHY:** did he say that? Why did he do that? Why did they go there?

**ASK THESE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:**

Are there any commands?

Are there any contrasts?

Are there things repeated?

Is there cause and effect?

Is there a problem and solution?

Are there any promises?

Are there any connections to other parts of the Bible?

Notice the setting!

**STEP VI: "KNOW IT"!!!**

**START LOOKING FOR THE ANSWERS**

**Q: What is in the way of these precepts affecting me? What is in the way of my listening to God?**

WHAT DOES SOMETHING MEAN AND WHY IS IT THERE?  
Be sure your information is correct!!!  
Use good commentaries, Study Bibles, and Bible dictionaries.

**Digging Personally:**

How are you encouraged & strengthened?  
Where have you fallen short, and how can you improve?  
What do you now intend to do with the information given to you?  
We must have the confidence that the Bible is truth! This is knowing It!  
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Is there a sin in your life that needs to be confessed and repented?

Are you appreciating it?

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Are you a changed person as a result of receiving the Word?

**STEP VII: "APPLICATION!!!" (Gal 5:21-26)**

**Q: How does this apply to me? What will I do about it?**

Application comes out of a Changed life. And leads to a life transformed!  
What must I do to make God's Word real in me? What is my response?  
When will it end up in my day planner?  
Mediate over the passage

**ASK YOURSELF THESE FIVE QUESTIONS:**

What illustration can I use to remember?  
How does the truth apply to my life?  
What is my personal prayer regarding these truths?  
What changes/improvements could I make in light of the truth?  
How should I carry out these changes?  
**Pray** to ask God how to implement His truth to you. Tell Others. Accountability.

**Q: What can I model and teach? What does God want me to share with someone?**

**STEP VII: MAKE USE OF THE BOOK CHART**

Write down what God is saying to you and what you have discovered and learned. By doing this, it will allow you to apply it to your life better!

**"You can do it!"**

Keep this guide "tucked" in your Bible for reference and guidance.