

STUDYING YOUR BIBLE



Bible study is exciting and can help you know what is true and what is not, how God wants you to live, and how to make good choices for the rest of your life. Read these Bible verses to discover why God wants you to study His Word: Psalm 119:105; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14–17; Hebrews 4:12.

Bible study is more than reading your Bible. If you are ready to begin an energizing discovery of truth, decide on what to study: a Bible book, a Bible person, or a Bible topic.

BIBLE BOOK

Start with one of the Gospels such as Mark. Read a summary about the book. Read about 10 verses each day. If the verses talk about a place, look at one of the maps in this Bible to locate that place. Find a notebook and answer these questions: Who is the Bible writer talking to? What did God want the first readers or hearers to know or do? What does God want me to know or do?

PERSON

Locate his or her name in the Bible Dictionary at the front of this Bible. Or look at the "Kids in the Bible" article inserted at the beginning of the New Testament in this Bible. Read the Bible verses listed. In your notebook, answer as many of these questions as you can: Where did this person live? Whom did he know? What did he do? What can I learn from this person?

BIBLE TOPIC

Find a topic such as "The Ten Plagues of Egypt" (see the article inserted among the pages of Exodus in this Bible). After reading the Bible verses, list in your notebook two or three things the Bible says about the topic. Then write what this means to you and what God wants you to do.

GENESIS

The Creation

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.^A Jn 1:1-3

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day. Jr 4:23; Jb 26:13; 33:4; Ps 33:6

⁶ Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." ⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ God called the expanse "sky."^B Evening came and then morning: the second day.

⁹ Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of the water he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds." And it was so. ¹² The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed

in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ Evening came and then morning: the third day. Jb 38:8-11; Ps 33:7; 136:6; Jr 5:22

¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons^C and for days and years. ¹⁵ They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night — as well as the stars. ¹⁷ God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the water swarm with^D living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." ²¹ So God created the large sea-creatures^E and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them: "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." ²³ Evening came and then morning: the fifth day. Gn 8:17; 9:1; Ps 104:25-28

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according

^A1:1 Or *created the universe* ^B1:8 Or "heavens." ^C1:14 Or *for the appointed times* ^D1:20 Lit *with swarms of* ^E1:21 Or *created sea monsters*

to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵ So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man ^A in ^B our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, ^C and the creatures that crawl ^D on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image; he created him in ^E the image of God; he created them male and female. Gn 5:2; Mt 19:4; Mk 10:6

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls ^F on the earth.” ²⁹ God also said, “Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, ³⁰ for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth — everything having the breath of life in it — I have given ^G every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day. Gn 9:1,7; Gn 9:3; Ps 104:14-15

2 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. ² On the seventh ^H day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested ^I on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation. ^J Neh 9:6; Ps 33:6; Is 34:4; 45:12; 31:17

Man and Woman in the Garden

⁴ These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time ^K that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, ^L and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground. ⁶ But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground. ⁷ Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed. ⁹ The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river went ^M out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers. ^N ¹¹ The name of the first

^A1:26 Or human beings; Hb 'adam, also in v. 27 ^B1:26 Or as ^C1:26 Syr reads sky, and over every animal of the land ^D1:26 Or scurry ^E1:27 Or man as his own image; he created him as ^F1:28 Or and all scurrying animals that scurry ^G1:30 I have given added for clarity ^H2:2 Sam, LXX, Syr read sixth ^I2:2 Or ceased, also in v. 3 ^J2:3 Lit work that God created to make ^K2:4 Lit creation on the day ^L2:5 Or earth ^M2:10 Or goes ^N2:10 Lit became four heads