



INTRODUCTION

[Author's Note: You may want to share a story about taking a road trip when you were a child. This will help set up the lesson and give students a glimpse into your life.]

Most people that take a road trip just want to get to their destination. It can be hard to enjoy the journey when your mind is so focused on the finish line. This is not unlike the Christian life. We know that our destination is eternity with Jesus, but God has not only given us eternal life. He has given us an abundant life that we can experience with Him now. The journey through this abundant life is often where we learn the most about God and grow in our relationship with Jesus. Spiritual growth is a road trip that is less about the destination and more about the next move that God wants you to make in life. And there is great purpose in every turn, rest stop, and mile marker along the way.

Charles Spurgeon, a pastor and theologian, once said, "A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone that isn't." The Christian life is too hard to navigate on our own. It is easy to find ourselves falling apart when we face difficult situations or when we are trying to figure out where God wants us to go. It's almost like trying to drive to a new place without your GPS app on your phone. That is why God has given us the Bible. It is our road map that guides us as we live for Jesus and grow to become more like Him. This is why it is crucial for every Christian to read and study the Bible regularly. We simply cannot successfully live for Jesus without this spiritual discipline in our life.

Unfortunately, many people feel like the Bible is too confusing to understand so they are unable to apply it to real life situations. Today we will spend some time teaching you how to study the Bible in a way that is both easy for anyone to use and helpful with how it guides you to apply God's Word to your life. We are going to take a road trip together as we journey through the Bible in a way that will help you grow in our relationship with Jesus. It will not only set you up for success as you study the Bible but

also make it much less intimidating as you seek to study it every day. We will focus on one stop at a time instead of the destination knowing that each step gets us closer to where God wants us to be.

[**Author's Note:** This would be a great opportunity to share how God has used the Bible in your life.]

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

[**Author Note:** This is a good opportunity to use a helpful resource called The Bible Project. They have a video called “What is the Bible” that discusses it as a literary work as well as God’s Word. I found this helpful for students to begin the conversation about the Bible and how to study it.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak06MSETeo4&t=67s>]

The Bible is more than just a literary work, but it is the very Word of God. It is inspired by God and is useful for every area of the Christian life. Therefore, the Bible is so important to the everyday life of a Christian. It is our map or GPS as we journey with Jesus. God speaks to us when we read the Bible. It is how we know Him and grow to become more like Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 [ESV]

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Starting a regular quiet time is always the hardest part of studying Scripture. It takes time to develop this healthy rhythm in your everyday life, but you can do it with the right commitment and tools. It is important to start any road trip by making sure you have some of the basics figured out before you load up the car and head towards your destination. It’s hard to start a long road trip with gas in the car, some good snacks, and maybe a good playlist queued up. The following steps will not only help you start well but also create consistency as you journey through the Bible every day. It is through building on these principles that we can pave the way to grow in our relationship with Jesus.

BIBLE AND JOURNAL

Road maps, long before the GPS was invented, were one of the most essential tools to any road trip. It helped you map out the best route from your starting point to where you wanted to go. The Bible is like our road map; it shows us the road to spiritual growth as we learn more about Jesus and how He has called us to live for Him. Therefore, the first tool you need to go on this road trip is a Bible. I would suggest getting yourself a printed Bible for this road trip. A Bible app on your phone is helpful for quick references, but it is not a great tool for digging into the Scriptures on a regularly basis...too many distractions or obstacles that can take your eyes off the road. If you do not own one, then we would love to put one in your hands.

The second tool you need is a notebook or some kind of journal. It is always helpful to keep track of your journey by writing down what God is teaching you and how you can apply it to your life. This is not unlike what people do when they create a scrapbook, photo album, or post pictures on social media when they go on vacation. It's a way to remember what you have experienced as well as the memories attached to it. Remembering what you have learned and how you have applied it as you journal through Scripture will help you build a foundation of trust for your journey with Jesus. You will see all the growth you have experienced over the years as well as the many ways that God has revealed Himself to you.

We will teach you a simple journaling method that you can use to help you get the most out of your time studying the Bible as well as record what God is doing in your life along the way. The most important tool for this is having a notebook or journal with you, so feel free to go big and get something nice that you get excited about using. It is a great companion to have beside a physical Bible when spending time with God and His Word.

READING PLAN

[**Author's Note:** I have provided a 14-day Bible reading plan (5 readings a week) and a journaling template with this curriculum to get students started, but you might want to make a few other plans available in case students want to go beyond a 14 day plan.]



Let's take a R.O.A.D. Trip! Read the following passage as a group then take each stop of this road trip together taking a few minutes to share what each person is writing down.

Scripture Passage: Psalm 23

1. Read: What verse or verses stand out to you from the reading? Write the verse or verses below.

2. Observe: What does it mean? Write down some thoughts about what the passage means in the context of the verses around it.

3. Apply: How can you apply it to your life? Write down some ways you might live differently because of this verse.

4. Decide: How should you respond? Write down a prayer or an action step in response to what you have studied.

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