

# Prepare Yourself for a Journey Like No Other

Join The Journey this year and travel with us through the Bible, God's timeless message of truth. Within this book lie the answers to life's most asked questions, including: Where is meaning in life ultimately found? What is the Lord's will? Where is God in my time of suffering? How can I be a better parent, spouse, or person?

Everyone has asked these questions at some time, but not everyone knows how the Bible specifically answers each of these questions. Our prayer is that you would join us on The Journey and discover what the Lord has to say in response to these questions and others. The answers may surprise you . . . and change your life!

## JANUARY

3 Psalm 1 (Book 1)  
4 Psalm 2  
5 Psalm 3  
6 Psalm 4  
7 Psalm 5  
10 Psalm 6  
11 Psalm 7  
12 Psalm 8  
13 Psalm 9  
14 Psalm 10  
17 Psalm 11  
18 Psalm 12  
19 Psalm 13  
20 Psalm 14  
21 Psalm 15  
24 Psalm 16  
25 Psalm 17  
26 Psalm 18  
27 Psalm 19  
28 Psalm 20  
31 Psalm 21

## FEBRUARY

1 Psalm 22  
2 Psalm 23  
3 Psalm 24  
4 Psalm 25  
7 Psalm 26  
8 Psalm 27  
9 Psalm 28  
10 Psalm 29  
11 Psalm 30  
14 Psalm 31  
15 Psalm 32  
16 Psalm 33  
17 Psalm 34  
18 Psalm 35  
21 Psalm 36  
22 Psalm 37  
23 Psalm 38  
24 Psalm 39  
25 Psalm 40  
28 Psalm 41

## MARCH

1 Job 1  
2 Job 2  
3 Job 3  
4 Job 4  
7 Job 5  
8 Job 6  
9 Job 7  
10 Job 8  
11 Job 9  
14 Job 10  
15 Job 11  
16 Job 12  
17 Job 13  
18 Job 14  
21 Job 15  
22 Job 16  
23 Job 17  
24 Job 18  
25 Job 19  
28 Job 20  
29 Job 21  
30 Job 22  
31 Job 23

## APRIL

1 Job 24  
4 Job 25  
5 Job 26  
6 Job 27  
7 Job 28  
8 Job 29  
11 Job 30  
12 Job 31  
13 Job 32  
14 Job 33  
15 Job 34  
18 Job 35  
19 Job 36  
20 Job 37  
21 Job 38  
22 Job 39  
25 Job 40  
26 Job 41  
27 Job 42  
28 Psalm 42 (Book 2)  
29 Psalm 43

## MAY

2 Psalm 44  
3 Psalm 45  
4 Psalm 46  
5 Psalm 47  
6 Psalm 48  
9 Psalm 49  
10 Psalm 50  
11 Psalm 51  
12 Psalm 52  
13 Psalm 53  
16 Psalm 54  
17 Psalm 55  
18 Psalm 56  
19 Psalm 57  
20 Psalm 58  
23 Psalm 59  
24 Psalm 60  
25 Psalm 61  
26 Psalm 62  
27 Psalm 63  
30 Psalm 64  
31 Psalm 65

## JUNE

1 Psalm 66  
2 Psalm 67  
3 Psalm 68  
6 Psalm 69  
7 Psalm 70  
8 Psalm 71  
9 Psalm 72  
10 Proverbs 1  
13 Proverbs 2  
14 Proverbs 3  
15 Proverbs 4  
16 Proverbs 5  
17 Proverbs 6  
20 Proverbs 7  
21 Proverbs 8  
22 Proverbs 9  
23 Proverbs 10  
24 Proverbs 11  
27 Proverbs 12  
28 Proverbs 13  
29 Proverbs 14  
30 Proverbs 15

## JULY

1 Proverbs 16  
4 Proverbs 17  
5 Proverbs 18  
6 Proverbs 19  
7 Proverbs 20  
8 Proverbs 21  
11 Proverbs 22  
12 Proverbs 23  
13 Proverbs 24  
14 Proverbs 25  
15 Proverbs 26  
18 Proverbs 27  
19 Proverbs 28  
20 Proverbs 29  
21 Proverbs 30  
22 Proverbs 31  
25 Psalm 73 (Book 3)  
26 Psalm 74  
27 Psalm 75  
28 Psalm 76  
29 Psalm 77

## AUGUST

1 Psalm 78:1-20  
2 Psalm 78:21-39  
3 Psalm 78:40-53  
4 Psalm 78:54-72  
5 Psalm 79  
8 Psalm 80  
9 Psalm 81  
10 Psalm 82  
11 Psalm 83  
12 Psalm 84  
15 Psalm 85  
16 Psalm 86  
17 Psalm 87  
18 Psalm 88  
19 Psalm 89:1-18  
22 Psalm 89:19-37  
23 Psalm 89:38-52  
24 Ecclesiastes 1  
25 Ecclesiastes 2  
26 Ecclesiastes 3  
29 Ecclesiastes 4  
30 Ecclesiastes 5  
31 Ecclesiastes 6

## SEPTEMBER

1 Ecclesiastes 7  
2 Ecclesiastes 8  
5 Ecclesiastes 9  
6 Ecclesiastes 10  
7 Ecclesiastes 11  
8 Ecclesiastes 12  
9 Psalm 90 (Book 4)  
12 Psalm 91  
13 Psalm 92  
14 Psalm 93  
15 Psalm 94  
16 Psalm 95  
19 Psalm 96  
20 Psalm 97  
21 Psalm 98  
22 Psalm 99  
23 Psalm 100  
26 Psalm 101  
27 Psalm 102  
28 Psalm 103  
29 Psalm 104:1-12  
30 Psalm 104:13-23

## OCTOBER

3 Psalm 104:24-35  
4 Psalm 105  
5 Psalm 106:1-15  
6 Psalm 106:16-31  
7 Psalm 106:32-48  
10 Song of Solomon 1  
11 Song of Solomon 2  
12 Song of Solomon 3  
13 Song of Solomon 4  
14 Song of Solomon 5  
17 Song of Solomon 6  
18 Song of Solomon 7  
19 Song of Solomon 8  
20 Psalm 107:1-22 (Book 5)  
21 Psalm 107:23-32  
24 Psalm 107:33-43  
25 Psalm 108  
26 Psalm 109:1-8  
27 Psalm 109:9-19  
28 Psalm 109:20-31  
31 Psalm 110

## NOVEMBER

1 Psalm 111  
2 Psalm 112  
3 Psalm 113  
4 Psalm 114  
7 Psalm 115  
8 Psalm 116  
9 Psalm 117  
10 Psalm 118:1-18  
11 Psalm 118:19-29  
14 Psalm 119:1-32  
15 Psalm 119:33-72  
16 Psalm 119:73-112  
17 Psalm 119:113-152  
18 Psalm 119:153-176  
21 Psalm 120  
22 Psalm 121  
23 Psalm 122  
24 Psalm 123  
25 Psalm 124  
28 Psalm 125  
29 Psalm 126  
30 Psalm 127

## DECEMBER

1 Psalm 128  
2 Psalm 129  
5 Psalm 130  
6 Psalm 131  
7 Psalm 132  
8 Psalm 133  
9 Psalm 134  
12 Psalm 135  
13 Psalm 136  
14 Psalm 137  
15 Psalm 138  
16 Psalm 139  
19 Psalm 140  
20 Psalm 141  
21 Psalm 142  
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23 Psalm 144  
26 Psalm 145  
27 Psalm 146  
28 Psalm 147  
29 Psalm 148  
30 Psalm 149  
31 Psalm 150

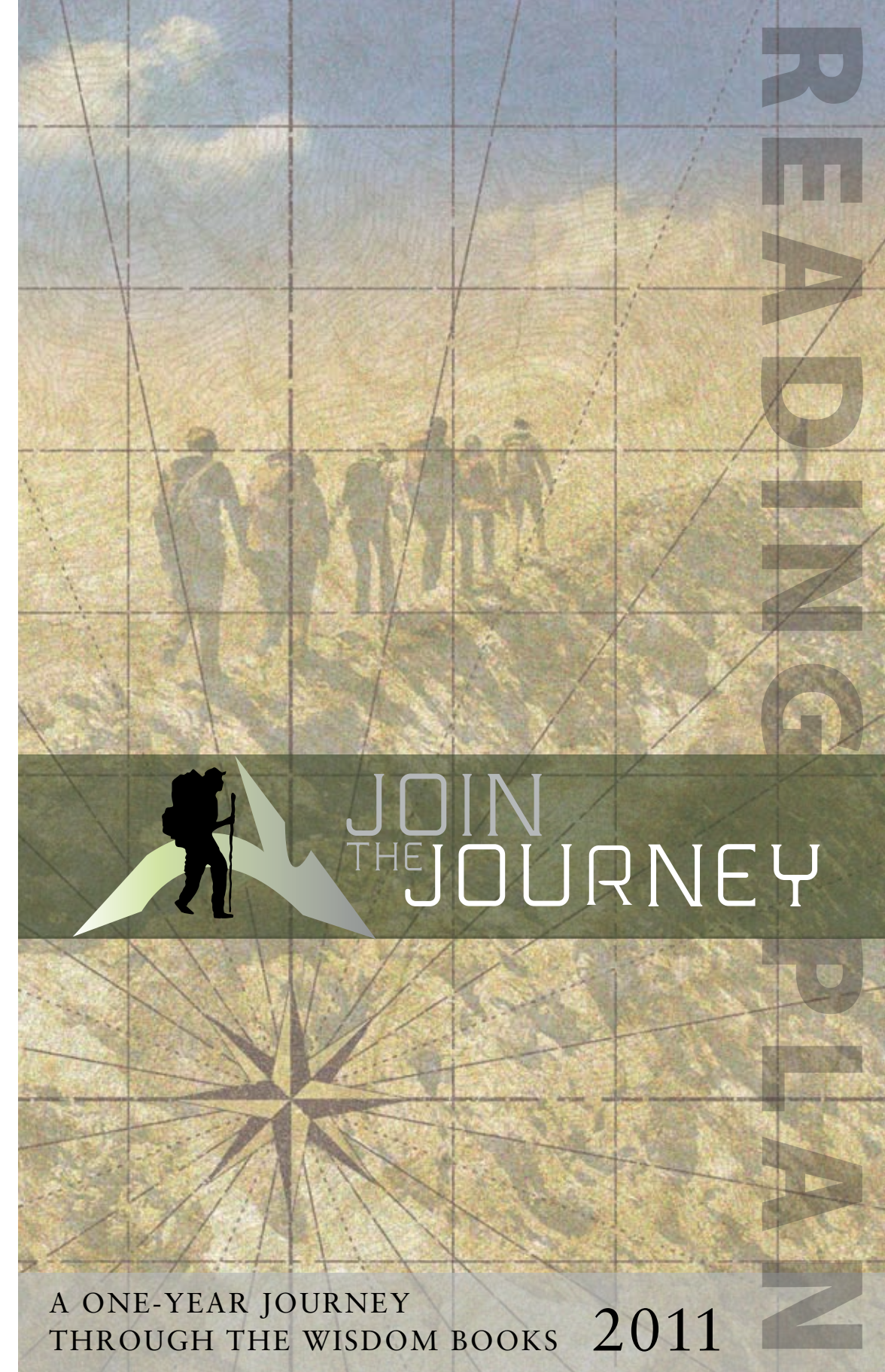
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A ONE-YEAR JOURNEY  
THROUGH THE WISDOM BOOKS

2011

READING PLAN



# Six Steps to Understanding the Bible

You can understand the Bible! You do not need a graduate degree in Biblical studies. All you need to be able to do is read. Sadly, many people feel unqualified or ill-equipped to read and interpret the Bible for themselves. Consequently, they miss out on understanding the promises God wants them to rest in knowing. Here are 6 easy steps for you to follow . . .

## 1 DETERMINE THE CONTEXT

In order to understand the meaning of a particular passage in Scripture, it is essential that you first determine its context. Each passage has a historical, cultural, literary and theological context. Try to read every verse in context of each paragraph, each paragraph in context of each chapter, each chapter in context of each book and each book in context with the rest of Scripture. (Apart from what the text says, additional resources to help you do this are listed in step 4).

## 2 GATHER THE CLUES

Because “all Scripture is inspired by God” (2 Timothy 3:16), no word or thought is insignificant. Each word needs to be examined carefully. Each passage is filled with “clues” (key words, people, contrasts, locations, etc.) that unlock its meaning. Thus, the same skills that are required of a good detective are also necessary for understanding the Bible. Like a good detective, you must ask a lot of questions. Try asking questions beginning with the words: Who, What, When, Where, How and Why? For example, you might ask, “To whom is Jesus speaking?” and “How did they respond?” Or, “When did this event take place?” and “Why is it significant?” The number of questions you might ask is endless.

Based upon what you have discovered, you summarize your thoughts by answering the following two questions:

What is the main idea (subject) of the passage?

What is said about the main idea (subject) of the passage?

Make sure that your answers to these questions are not too general (broad) that they fail to deal with the specifics of the text, nor too specific (narrow) that they fail to consider the whole. Once you have identified the main idea (subject), write down everything the passage says about it. (This also serves as an excellent way to outline the text).

## 3 COMPARE AND CONTRAST SCRIPTURE

The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture. Thus, one of the best ways to understand the meaning of a passage is to compare and contrast it with other passages. Often, the same ideas in one passage are repeated or restated more clearly in other parts of the Bible. One way to do this is to use a concordance. A concordance is a tool that lists all the words used in the Bible, gives the reference for where they appear and the surrounding context. Concordances are found in the back of many study Bibles and on many websites such as [biblegateway.org](http://biblegateway.org).

## 4 CONSULT OTHER SOURCES

After having studied the passage for yourself, it is helpful to see what other people have discovered about the text. Fortunately, there are hundreds of reference books that can help you. Some of the more popular books that will help you include a concordance, Bible dictionary, Bible encyclopedia, Bible handbook, Bible atlas, a commentary and a good word study book. Some helpful websites that will enhance your study are [netbible.org](http://netbible.org), [soniclight.com](http://soniclight.com) and [biblegateway.org](http://biblegateway.org). If you are looking for just one complete resource, we highly recommend the NET Bible for its clarity, study notes and aids. (You can purchase the NET Bible or refer to it for free at [netbible.org](http://netbible.org)).

## 5 DRAW YOUR CONCLUSION

Once you have exhausted all your investigative efforts, it is time to draw your conclusion. To do so, try answering the question, “In one sentence, what is the universal principle this passage is teaching?”

## 6 COMMIT TO TAKE ACTION

The purpose of studying the Bible is to grow in godliness, not to simply gain more knowledge about a particular subject. Therefore, it is essential that you take the final step of applying what you have learned. There may be dozens of applications. The following questions are helpful to ask:

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there a prayer to repeat?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a condition to meet?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- Is there a doctrine taught that I need to better understand?
- Is there a challenge to face?

Helpful resources include Rick Warren’s book, *Bible Study Methods: Twelve Ways You Can Unlock God’s Word* (Zondervan) and *Talk Thru the Bible* by Wilkinson and Boa (Zondervan).