

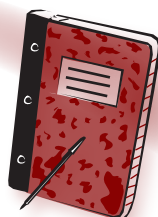
My Life, My World, God's Answers

What do music, bad habits, family relationships, and authority have in common? They all are part of your everyday life. This quarter you will discover what God's Word has to say about these and other topics relevant to daily life.



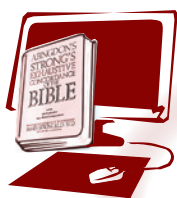
The *Living My Faith* Devotional Bible Study is designed to help you dig into God's Word. Each lesson offers devotions for Monday through

Saturday, along with worksheet to be completed during your group study and articles that will help you better understand and apply God's Word.



Journal: Purchase a journal or notebook to record your personal thoughts and prayers. Bring your journal and student book to class

each week so that you can take notes during the lesson or write any special insights you gain from a particular activity. You may also use the journal for sermon notes or for prayer requests.



Bible study tools: In order for you to dig into God's Word, consider using a Bible dictionary and a concordance. If you are not familiar with these helpful guides, ask your pastor or youth leader for a recommendation. Or visit an online Bible tools Web site, such as www.blueletterbible.org. This site offers commentaries, maps, and many other tools to help you in your Bible study.

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Strength for Real Life

Monday

Do you ever feel completely clueless about how to handle a situation or even where to turn for help? This quarter you'll study about several hard-to-handle areas of your life, and you'll discover that the answers for these hard problems are all in the Bible: God's Word to you.

What makes the Bible so special? Read the following verses and answer the questions.

1. 2 Peter 1:21—How did the Bible come into existence?
2. 2 Timothy 3:16—What is the Bible profitable (useful) for?
3. Hebrew 4:12—How is the Bible described and what can it do?
4. Based on the verses you've studied, what would you say makes the Bible so special?

Tuesday

Psalms 119 is all about God's Word. It describes the many wonderful ways God's Word works in the life of a believer. Read the following verses from Psalm 119 and write the ways God's Word can help you.

1. Verse 9
2. Verse 11
3. Verse 25
4. Verse 28
5. Circle the help you most need today.

Wednesday

Continue studying Psalm 119 by reading the following verses and describing the work of God's Word in a believer's life.

1. Verse 42
2. Verse 49
3. Verse 52
4. Verse 66
5. Which of these things have you already experienced as you've studied God's Word in the past?

Thursday

Wrap up your study of Psalm 119 by reading the indicated verses and answering the questions.

1. Verses 98–100—Based on these verses, why is God’s Word more valuable than even advice from others?
2. Verse 105—How is God’s Word like a lamp or a light?
3. Verse 165—What is true of those who love God’s Word?

God’s Word truly is wonderful and powerful. Even though reading and learning it takes time and effort, it’s well worth it!

Friday

God’s Word is available to you, but you won’t benefit from it unless you take some steps first.

1. According to 1 Corinthians 2:14, how does the “natural” (unsaved) man view God’s Word?
2. Read Ephesians 2:8 and 9. What is the first step a person must take before he or she can understand and use the Word of God?
3. According to these verses, what should a believer do with God’s Word?
2 Timothy 2:15

Psalm 1:2

4. Which of these steps do you need to take in order to gain all the benefits of God’s Word at work in your life?

Saturday

It's good to read the Bible, but it will not be effective in our lives until we take this important next step. Read James 1:22–25.

1. What command is given?
2. What illustration does James use for those who don't apply God's Word?
3. How can a person be "blessed in his deed"?
4. Read Ezra 7:10. What can you learn from Ezra's example?
5. Write a short prayer telling God what you are willing to do in order to know and apply His Word.

WEEK 1

Memory Verse

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue" (2 Peter 1:3).

God's Word in My Life

by Stan Lightfoot

God designed the Bible to reveal Himself and to help us live our lives as He intended. That means it should help us in our day-to-day actions and decisions. Does it? I asked the teens at our church to tell me how the Bible helps them in several areas of life. Here are their answers.

How does the Bible help you at home?

"It helps me to forgive my brothers and sisters when they do stuff that hurts me (Matthew 18:21, 22). It also teaches me to support them and encourage them when they're feeling bad (1 Thessalonians 5:11)."

"The Bible says, 'The eyes of the LORD are in every place, [keeping watch on] the evil and the good' (Proverbs 15:3). That helps me when something happens at home that my parents don't see or when I get in trouble for something I didn't do. I know God still knows."

"The Bible says we should obey our parents (Ephesians 6:1, 2). It gives us guidelines that set us apart from the rest of the world. Secularism says that our parents are there just to feed us and take care of us and that we should just do what we want, no matter what they say. The Bible helps me see that differently."

How does the Bible help you at school?

"This week some of the kids at school have been taking advantage of our English teacher because she's having some hearing problems. After a while she got upset and gave the class a lecture on respect, doing their work, and the importance of learning. A lot of my classmates thought her talk was stupid and laughed at her. I thought she was right. The Bible tells us to be kind (Ephesians 4:32) and to respect people like teachers who are in a position of authority (Romans 13:1-7)."

"A lot of kids don't want to do their homework, and it seems like refusing to work hard at school is the 'in' thing. The kid who does what he is supposed to do is the 'nerd,' and the kid who is disobedient is 'cool.' The Bible helps me see through that (Ephesians 6:5, 6)."

"Sometimes we hear things in class that aren't right, like the stuff about evolution. The Bible helps me know what is right and helps me reject false stuff like evolution. I can refute evolution because I know what the Bible says (Genesis 1–11)."

How does the Bible help you with your friends?

"The Bible changes how you treat your friends. A lot of kids are cruel toward each other. The Bible teaches us to be careful how we use our mouths and to be kind (James 3:1–12; Ephesians 4:32)."

"We won't always be in this world. We'll be going to Heaven someday, so we don't have to worry about what people think of us when we do what God wants us to do (Matthew 6:19–21)."

How does the Bible help you at church?

"We come regularly to church because we know God wants us to be around other believers and learn about Him (Hebrews 10:24, 25)."

"James tells us our tongues can be a big problem and that we need to watch what we say to each other. We need to make sure that when we're joking around we don't hurt each other (James 3:1–12)."

"We know the Bible tells us how to be saved, so we should invite our friends so they will hear the gospel too—kinda like Philip and Nathaniel (John 1:43–46)."

How does the Bible help you on the job?

"Sometimes a boss will ask us to do something we know is wrong. We can

learn from Daniel that when that happens, it's right to take a stand for God and to provide an alternative to the boss that will allow us to do what is right (Daniel 1)."

"My boss isn't my mom and dad or a policeman, but I still need to respect him as an authority God put in my life (Romans 13:1–7; Ephesians 6:5, 6)."

How does the Bible help you on your team?

"My coach is my boss. Even though he makes things hard sometimes, I'm supposed to respect him and follow his lead (Ephesians 6:5, 6)."

"The Bible teaches me to be a good teammate, to be a good sport, to encourage my teammates instead of yelling at them, and to respect my opponents (Romans 12:9–21)."

How does the Bible help you when you are alone?

"Sometimes when I'm alone, it's because I'm angry. Reading the Bible can help me calm down and get my emotions under control."

"The Bible says, 'Be sure your sin will find you out' (Numbers 32:23). Remembering that helps me do what's right even when no one else knows. I know God knows."

PLUGGED IN

Look up the references and write down ways you can “plug in” to the power of God’s Word.

Ephesians 2:8, 9

2 Timothy 2:15

Psalms 1:2

James 1:22–25

Ezra 7:10

Joshua 1:8