

TEACH ME YOUR WAYS

KAY ARTHUR


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HOW TO GET STARTED...



Sometimes it's hard to read directions. You simply want to get started, and only if all else fails will you read the directions. I understand, but in this case, don't do it! These instructions are part of getting started, and they will help you greatly.

FIRST

As you study the books of the Pentateuch you will need four things in addition to this book:

1. A Bible that you are willing to mark in. The marking is essential. An ideal Bible for this purpose is *The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*. The *NISB* is in a single-column text format with larger, easy-to-read type, which is ideal for marking. The margins around the text are wide for note-taking.

The *NISB* also has instructions for studying each book of the Bible, but it does not contain any commentary on the text, nor is it compiled from any theological stance. Its purpose is to teach you how to discern truth for yourself through the inductive method of study. (The various charts and maps that you will find in this study guide are taken from the *NISB*.)

Whatever Bible you use, just know you will need to mark in it, which brings me to the second item you will need . . .

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2. A fine-point, four-color ballpoint pen or various colored fine-point pens that you can use to write in your Bible. The Micron pens are best for this purpose. Office supply stores should have these.
3. Colored pencils or an eight-color Pentel pencil.
4. A composition book or loose-leaf notebook for working on your assignments and recording your insights.

SECOND

Though you will be given specific instructions for each day's study, there are basic things you need to know, do, and/or remember as you move through each book chapter by chapter.

1. As you read each chapter, train yourself to ask the “5 W's and an H”: who, what, when, where, why, and how. Asking questions like these will help you see exactly what the Word of God has to say. When you interrogate the text with the 5 W's and an H, you would ask questions like this:

- a. **What** is this chapter about?
- b. **Who** are the main characters?
- c. **When** does this event or teaching take place?
- d. **Where** does this happen?
- e. **Why** is this being done or said?
- f. **How** did it happen?

2. The “when” of events or teachings is very important and should be marked in an easily recognizable way in your Bible. I do this by putting a clock in the margin of my *NISB*. You may want to underline or color the references to time in one specific color.

Remember, time may be expressed in several different ways: by mentioning an actual year, month, day, or by mentioning an event such as a feast, a year of a person's

reign, etc. Time can also be indicated by words such as *then, when, afterwards, at this time*, etc.

3. There are certain key words you will want to mark in a special way in the text of your Bible. This is the purpose of the colored pencils and the colored pen. Developing the habit of marking your Bible in this way will make a significant difference in the way you study and in how much you remember.

A **key word** is an important word that is used by the author repeatedly in order to convey his message to his reader. There are certain key words or phrases that will show up throughout the book as a whole, while others will be concentrated in certain chapters or segments of the book. When you mark a key word, also mark its pronouns (*he, his, she, her, it, we, they, us, our, you, them, their*) and its synonyms.

For instance, one of the key words you will mark in Genesis is *covenant*. I color the word *covenant* the same way throughout my *NISB*. I color it red and box it in yellow.

You need to devise a color-coding system for these words so that when you look at a page of your Bible, you will instantly see where a particular word is used. When you start marking key words in various colors and symbols, it is easy to forget how you are marking certain words. Therefore, you may wish to use an index card to write your key words on. Mark the words the way you plan to mark them in your Bible and then use the card as a bookmark.

Marking words for easy identification can be done by colors, symbols, or a combination of colors and symbols. However, colors are easier to distinguish than symbols. If I use symbols, I keep them very simple. For example, I color *repent* yellow but put a red arrow ↩ over it also. The symbol conveys the meaning of repent: a change of mind.

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When I mark the members of the Godhead (which I do not always mark), I color every reference to the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit in yellow. I also use a purple pen and mark the Father with a triangle  , symbolizing the Trinity. I mark the Son this way  , and the Holy Spirit this way  .

4. Because locations are important in a historical or biographical book of the Bible, you will find it helpful to mark these in a distinguishable way. I simply underline every reference to location in green (grass and trees are green!), using my four-color ballpoint pen.

I also look up the locations on maps so I can put myself into context geographically. If you have an *NISB* you will find maps right in the text.

5. When you finish studying a chapter, record the main theme of that chapter on the AT A GLANCE chart (located at the end of each book's study). Record it on the line beside the appropriate chapter number. If you have an *NISB*, you will want to record the chapter themes on the AT A GLANCE Chart at the end of each book in your Bible. Then you will have a permanent record of your studies right in your Bible, which will be helpful for future reference.

6. If you are doing this study within the framework of a class and you find the lessons too heavy, then simply do what you can. To do a little is better than to do nothing. Don't be an all-or-nothing person when it comes to Bible study.

Remember, anytime you get into the Word of God, you enter into more intensive warfare with the devil (our enemy). Why? Every piece of the Christian's armor is related to the Word of God. And our one and only offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of

God. The devil wants you to have a dull sword. Don't cooperate! You don't have to!

7. Every day when you finish your lesson, meditate on what you saw and ask your heavenly Father how you should live in the light of the truths you have just seen. At times, depending on how God has spoken to you, you might even want to record these "Lessons for Life" in the margin of your Bible next to the text you studied. The *NISB* suggests you simply put "LFL" in the margin of your Bible and then as briefly as possible record the lessons for life you want to remember.

8. Always begin your studies with prayer. As you do your part to handle the Word of God accurately, you must remember that the Bible is a divinely inspired book. The words that you are reading are truth, given to you by God that you might know Him and His ways. These truths are divinely revealed.

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:10,11).

Therefore, ask God to reveal His truth to you, to lead you and guide you into all truth. He will, if you will ask.

THIRD

This study book is designed to put you into the Word of God on a *daily* basis. Since man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God, we each need a daily helping.

The assignments cover seven days; however, the seventh day is different from the other days. On the seventh

day, the focus is on a major truth covered in that week's study.

You will find a verse or two to memorize and STORE IN YOUR HEART. Then there is a passage to READ AND DISCUSS. This will be extremely profitable for those who are using this material in a class setting, for it will cause the class to focus their attention on a critical portion of Scripture. To aid the individual and/or the class, there's a set of QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY. This is followed with a THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK which will help you understand how to walk in the light of what you learned.

When you discuss the week's lesson, be sure to support your answers and insights from the Bible itself. Then you will be handling the Word of God in a way that will find His approval. Always examine your insights by carefully observing the text to see what it *says*. Then, before you decide what a Scripture or passage *means*, make sure you interpret it in the light of its context.

Scripture will never contradict Scripture. If it ever seems to, you can be certain that somewhere something is being taken out of context. If you come to a passage that is difficult to deal with, reserve your interpretations for a time when you can study the passage in greater depth.

Books in The New Inductive Study Series are survey courses. If you want to do a more in-depth study of a particular book of the Bible, we would suggest you do a Precept Upon Precept Bible Study Course on that book. You may obtain more information on these studies by contacting Precept Ministries at 800-763-8280, visiting our website at www.precept.org, or by filling out and mailing the response card at the back of this book.

GENESIS

GENESIS

*AND ALL THINGS WERE
CREATED BY HIM AND FOR HIM...*



Genesis is the book of beginnings. If you want to know where it all started—creation, man, marriage, sin, civilizations, etc., then Genesis is the book you want to study. Genesis lays the foundation for the entire Word of God.

As you read through Genesis, you will find that the first 11 chapters cover four major events: creation, the fall of man, the flood, and the creation of the nations through the confusion of the languages at the tower of Babel.

The rest of Genesis, chapters 12 through 50, will center around four major characters: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), and Joseph.

In eight short weeks you will not only have a good grasp of this critical book, but you will find yourself coming to a more intimate knowledge of your God and His ways. And to know and respond to such insight is to be transformed!

WEEK ONE



DAY ONE

Read Genesis 1. In distinctive ways or colors mark each occurrence of the following two phrases: *Then (And) God said* and *There was evening and there was morning, (a) _____ day.*

Note what was created, how it was created, and when it was created. If there is room, record this in the margin of your Bible next to the appropriate verses.

As you finish reading each chapter of Genesis, record the theme of that chapter on the GENESIS AT A GLANCE chart (pages 44-45). The theme of a chapter is discerned by observing the subject or the person which is dealt with the most in that chapter. You may also want to record the theme in your Bible by the chapter number.



DAY TWO

As you study the Bible you will see that sometimes the author explains something and then comes back to the same subject and covers it again, this time giving additional insight to what was said in the first incident.

Carefully read Genesis 2, as it gives a more detailed account of what God did when He created the heavens and the earth.

As you read, carefully list God's instructions to the man. Also note how woman was created and what the relationship of man and woman was to be like.

List your insights in your notebook. If you have room in the margin of your Bible, you may want to record your insights there. Do this throughout this course. If you record your notes in your Bible, you will always have them with you.

Read Matthew 19:3-9, as it is an excellent cross-reference. Note how it relates to Genesis 2; then, if you want to remember this passage in relationship to Genesis, put the "address" of the verses in Matthew next to the Scripture it relates to in Genesis 2.

DAY THREE

Read Genesis 3 and Revelation 12:9; 20:2. Mark every reference to the serpent (Satan, devil, etc.) with a red pitchfork. List all you learn about him and his tactics.

DAY FOUR

Read Genesis 3 again. This time concentrate on the woman. Ask the 5 W's and an H: who, what, when, where, why, and how about the woman and what she does in this chapter.

List all you learn about the woman, including what she is named and why.

Note the progression of her actions that lead up to eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

List what God says will happen to the serpent, Adam, and the woman.



DAY 

Read Genesis 4. List what you learn about Cain and about Abel. Then trace Cain's offspring in this chapter. Note what these men did. It will give you insight into the earliest civilization of man.



DAY 

Read Genesis 4:25–5:32. Watch what you learn about Seth and Enosh. Mark the word *likeness* and note the contrast between the two occurrences of this word. Also mark the key repeated phrase *and he died* and note in the margin of your Bible how long each man lived before he died.

Study the chart on page 46 and note that Adam is a contemporary of Lamech, Lamech of Noah, Noah of Abraham. Interesting, isn't it!



DAY 



Store in your heart: Genesis 3:15.

Read and discuss: Genesis 3:1-15; Romans 5:12; 3:10-12; Isaiah 53:6.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY

- ❖ What do you learn from these verses about sin? For instance, from what Adam and Eve did, and from the way the serpent tempted Eve, what would you say sin is? List your insights and discuss them.
- ❖ Maybe you know some other verses that define sin. If so, share them.

- ❖ What do you learn from Genesis and the other verses about the consequences of sin?
- ❖ If the root of sin is “turning your own way”—i.e., walking independently of God—what would the fruit of such a lifestyle be?
- ❖ Who or what would you say governs your life? How do you know? Why?
- ❖ Genesis is the book of beginnings. If there is time, discuss the “firsts” you have seen in these five chapters of Genesis (first man and woman, etc.).
- ❖ How do the truths of Genesis 1–5 compare with things you have been taught by others? Who are you going to believe?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Have you recognized that you are a sinner and that there is only One who can grant you forgiveness of sins and set you free from slavery to sin? It is the Lord Jesus Christ, the seed of the woman who bruised the serpent’s head.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:18-21).