

# BE WITH JESUS

## BIBLICAL GUIDANCE

**Reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on God's Word to hear His voice, know His character and follow His ways.**

- Welcome, Review
- Group Check-In
- Message
- Group Study
- Practice the Practice
- Closing Prayer

This Week's Key Verse to Think About, Soak in, and Memorize:

*Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. **Psalm 119:105***

More Resources to Explore!

See the Spiritual Growth Section of the Twin Cities Church website:

[www.twincities.church/spiritual-growth-be2](http://www.twincities.church/spiritual-growth-be2)

Click on the "Biblical Guidance" picture to find many helpful resources.

# BIBLICAL GUIDANCE

The Bible is one of the most influential and widely discussed books in human history. For thousands of years it has shaped cultures, guided nations, and transformed countless lives. Yet many people still wrestle with questions about it. Is the Bible still relevant today? Can it really be trusted? What do we do when we encounter passages that are difficult to understand or accept?

For some, the Bible may seem confusing, outdated, or even boring. Others view it primarily as a book of rules or judgment. But when people begin to encounter God personally, their perspective on Scripture changes. What once seemed distant or irrelevant begins to come alive with meaning and purpose. The Bible is far more than a collection of ancient writings. It is God's Word that reveals His character, communicates His truth, and guides His people.

As followers of Jesus, learning to receive guidance from God's Word is one of the most important spiritual practices we can develop. Through Scripture, God shapes our hearts, renews our minds, and directs our steps.

## What the Bible Says About Biblical Guidance

Scripture consistently teaches that God uses His Word to guide, strengthen, and transform us.

- **Matthew 4:3–4** *“The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”*

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He responded with truth from Scripture. This shows that God's Word is essential spiritual nourishment. Just as our bodies need food, our souls need the truth of God's Word to remain strong and healthy.

- **1 Thessalonians 2:13** *“When you received the word of God... you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.”*

God's Word is not mere information - it is transformational. When we receive Scripture with faith, God uses it to shape our lives.

- **Luke 11:28** *“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”*

Jesus emphasizes that the goal of Scripture is not simply knowledge, but obedience. True blessing comes when we listen to God's Word and put it into practice.

## A Biblical Example—Jesus' Devotion to Scripture

Jesus Himself demonstrated a deep love and commitment to God's Word. Even as a boy, He engaged in discussions about Scripture with religious leaders in the temple. Throughout His life and ministry, His teaching was saturated with references to the Scriptures.

When Jesus faced temptation in the wilderness, He relied on memorized Scripture to respond to Satan's lies. Rather than relying on His own reasoning or strength, He stood firmly on the truth of God's Word. Even in His most difficult moment on the cross, Jesus turned to Scripture for strength. When He cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" and "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit," He was quoting from the Psalms.

Jesus' example shows us that Scripture was not merely something He read - it was something He lived from. God's Word shaped His thinking, guided His decisions, and strengthened Him in moments of trial.

### **Why Biblical Guidance Matters**

Life constantly presents challenges, decisions, temptations, and uncertainties. Without a reliable source of truth, we can easily drift off course or become influenced by voices that lead us away from God's ways. God's Word provides the wisdom and guidance we need.

**Hebrews 4:12** *"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."*

The Bible is called "alive and active" because God is alive and His truth is eternal. The Holy Spirit uses Scripture to search our hearts, reveal our motives, and guide us toward God's will. Scripture also equips us to live faithfully.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

Through God's Word we receive instruction, correction, encouragement, and wisdom. As we engage with Scripture regularly, our minds are renewed and our lives are shaped to be like Jesus.

### **What It Looks Like to Practice Biblical Guidance**

Practicing Biblical Guidance is about more than simply reading a book - it's about developing a relationship with God through His Word. Over time, Scripture begins to feel less like something external and more like a voice that is shaping and guiding your life from within. It looks like a life where God's Word becomes a steady source of clarity in the middle of confusion, truth in the middle of competing voices, and strength in moments of weakness. Instead of feeling lost or reactive, there is a growing sense of direction and confidence rooted in God's truth.

As this practice takes root, Scripture begins to influence the way you think, the way you respond, and the way you make decisions. You start to recognize God's voice more easily, and His Word becomes something you carry with you - not just something you visit occasionally.

This week's practice is "**Biblical Guidance**" - an invitation to open God's Word with expectation, to listen with an open heart, and to allow His truth to guide and transform you. As you do, you may find that what once felt distant or difficult begins to come alive in new and meaningful ways.

# GROUP STUDY: Biblical Guidance

## Begin with Prayer and Silence

*Gather as a group and say a quick prayer to invite the Holy Spirit to guide your time together. Then spend a moment in silence, expressing a desire to hear from God.*

## Explore the Scriptures

1. Let's read Psalm 119:97-101 and 1 Peter 2:2. Both King David and the disciple Peter express a deep desire for God's Word. What benefits do they list that God's Word brings to our lives?
2. Let's read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Hebrews 4:12. What do these verses say about the role that scripture plays in the life of someone who follows Jesus?
3. In the parable of the Sower, Jesus uses the story of a farmer scattering seed to illustrate the sharing of God's Word and how it is resisted, released, or received depending on the condition of the heart. Let's read Luke 8:11-15. Why is the condition of our heart so vital to our ability to receive it? How can we cultivate our heart, so we absorb and act on it?

## Read Through the Practice Together

Read through the practice on the next page together, and then answer these questions:

- Do you feel you understand the practice? Do you have any questions about it?
- How do you feel about practicing this, any concerns?

## Share Your Personal Action Plan with the Group

*Jesus replied, "...blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice." - Luke 11:28*

I will practice Biblical Guidance on (day and time) \_\_\_\_\_

in this place (location) \_\_\_\_\_

## Close in Prayer

## BIBLICAL GUIDANCE / Practice

Our practice this week is **Biblical Guidance**. The goal is to engage with God's Word so the Holy Spirit can speak through Scripture and guide your life. Before you begin, pause in silence.

Take a few slow breaths and quiet your mind and heart.

*Pray:* "Lord, help me hear Your voice in Your Word today. Show me what You want me to see, teach me what You want me to know, and guide me in how You want me to live."

This practice follows a simple pattern called **H.E.A.R.** You will read the passage three times, each time focusing on a different way of listening.

### **H – Highlight** (Listen)

Read the passage slowly the first time. Rely on the Holy Spirit to bring something to your attention - a word, phrase, or idea. Underline the phrase or write it in a journal.

- What stands out to me?
- Why might this be important?

### **E – Engage** (Talk with God)

Read the passage again. This time talk with God about what you are reading.

- "Lord, I'm grateful for this."
- "I don't understand this."
- "This challenges me."

Invite the Holy Spirit to teach you. Write down any thoughts or insights that come to mind.

### **A – Apply** (Respond)

Before the third reading, ask: "Lord, how do You want me to respond to this?"

Read the passage again slowly. Notice if God brings something to mind and write it down.

- A step of obedience
- A change in attitude
- Someone to encourage
- A truth to trust

### **R – Remember** (Carry the Word)

Write out a phrase or verse from the passage and carry it with you. Pause during your day to ask:

- *What is the word God gave me today?*
- *Am I living it right now?*

