



Growth in Knowing, Loving, and Living God's Word

When we love God, we want to know more about Him. The primary way we do this is by reading the revelation of God given to us in the Bible. If we claim to follow Jesus and do not feel the need to go deep in the Scriptures, there is a good chance we do not understand what the Bible really is. As Christians, we get our truth and guidance in large part from God's Word, so we must be committed to studying it faithfully, loving the truth it reveals, and applying God's teaching to our lives on a daily basis. As we do this, the Scriptures connect our heart to the heart of God and grow our love for the people Jesus came to save.

Indicators of Growth:

1. **Conviction** - devotion to and following of the precepts of Scripture with zeal, whatever the cost. (Daniel 1:8)
2. **Devotion** - is aligning personal desires, plans, worship, and hope with God and the teachings of His Word. (Colossians 3:2)
3. **Ability to Teach** - sharing our insights and what we have learned from the Bible with others, to help them grow in Christian maturity. (Matt. 7:28; 28: 19-20; John 7:16; Mark 4:2; 2 John 1:9)
4. **Purity & Holiness** - being set apart for God's use, which is holiness in action. It does not allow us to be contaminated nor interfered with by others in our growth and relationship in Christ, and keeps us focused on what God says is important in His Word. (Matt. 5:8; Phil. 4:8; 1 Tim. 1:5; 5:22; James 4:8)
5. **Guidance** - willingness to help others to apply the teaching and truth of Scripture in everyday life...the good times and the difficult situations. (Proverbs 27:9)
6. **Justice** - doing and fighting for what is fair, moral, impartial, and right, according to God's will revealed in the teaching of the Bible. (Genesis 6:9)
7. **Zealousness** - maintaining our enthusiasm for our faith and call, not allowing our church or ourselves to fall into a rut of meaningless rhetoric but letting Scripture ignite our hearts for what honors God. (Luke 2:49; John 2:17 & 8:29)
8. **Wisdom** - truly desiring the knowledge of God's Word and the proper application to our life. This enables us to make good judgments and decisions in the flow of daily life. (1 Kings 3:9; Psalm 119:97-98)

Ideas for Action to Grow in Bible Engagement:

1. Read the Bible daily. If you need help with this, consider one of these ideas: use an

online reading plan, a one-year Bible, or talk with a pastor and ask for help designing a personal Bible reading plan.

2. Go deeper in the Bible by using a Study Bible (We would recommend the NIV Study Bible). Read one or more chapters of the Bible daily, and also read the study notes.
3. Listen to the Bible when you wake up, drive in your car, or take walks.
4. Discuss what you are learning from the Bible with friends who love Jesus.
5. Teach others what you learn from the Bible informally or investigate how you can get involved in teaching God's Word at your church. One of the best ways to learn something is to teach it to others.
6. Sing songs that are based on Scripture and let biblical truth fill your heart and mind.
7. Memorize passages that inspire, instruct, encourage, or convict you.
8. Live out what you learn from the Bible and put it into action.
9. In a similar way to eating three meals a day, read one chapter of the Bible three times a day. One in the morning, one at lunch, and one before you go to bed.
10. Attend a Men's, Women's, couples, or some other Bible study at your church.
11. Read a chronological Bible resource like *The Story* (Zondervan).

Resources for Growth in Bible Engagement:

Organic Disciples Resources:

1. [*Organic Disciples, Seven Ways to Grow Spiritually and Naturally Share Jesus*](#) (The Book), Part 1 (Chapters 4-6) on Bible Engagement, Pages 25-58.
2. [*Organic Disciples, Seven Ways to Grow Spiritually and Naturally Share Jesus \(Study Guide\)*](#), on Bible Engagement, Pages 15-29.
3. [*Organic Disciples, Free Online Video Teaching - Bible Engagement.*](#)
4. Organic Outreach International website, www.OrganicOutreach.org

Books/Articles:

1. Arthur, Kay [*How to Study Your Bible*](#)
2. Anders, Max [*30 Days to Understanding the Bible: Unlock the Scriptures in 15 Minutes a Day*](#)
3. The Bible Project, [*The Bible Project Poster Book Collection*](#)
4. [*The Books of the Bible New Testament*](#)
5. Challies, Tim & Byers, Josh, [*Visual Theology to the Bible*](#)
6. Fee, Gordon D. & Douglas Stuart [*How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*](#)
7. Grudem, Wayne [*Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*](#)
8. Grudem, Wayne [*Understanding the Big Picture of the Bible: A Guide to Reading the Bible Well*](#)
9. Harney, Kevin G. "Chapter 5: The Seismic Shift from Snacking to Feasting" [*Seismic Shifts: The Little Changes that Make a Big Difference in Your Life*](#), p. 69-83 14.
10. Keener, Craig, S. [*The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*](#)
11. Longman III, Tremper & Raymond B. Dillard [*An Introduction to the Old Testament: Second Edition*](#)

12. Lucado, Max & Randy Frazee [*The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People*](#)
12. Mounce, William D. [*Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*](#)
13. Sproul, R. C. [*Knowing Scripture*](#)
14. Wiersbe, Warren W. *The Bible Exposition Commentary*
15. Windhal, Zach; Nelson Publishing, [*The Bible Simplified*](#)
16. Wright, N.T. & Michael F. Bird [*The New Testament You Never Knew: Exploring the Context, Purpose, and Meaning of the Story of God*](#)
17. Zondervan Academics, [*The NIV Application Commentary Bundles \(There are 8 different bundles\)*](#)
18. Zondervan, [*The NIV Application Commentary On The Bible*](#)

Articles/Websites/Blogs:

1. The Bible Project, ["3 Easy Ways to Engage the Bible and Help You Get Started"](#)
2. The Bible Project, ["Visual Storytelling Meets the Bible"](#)
3. Chapell, Bryan ["4 Ways Your Whole Bible Points to Jesus"](#)
4. Reichard, Drew ["14 Great Ways to Engage God's Word"](#)
5. [GotQuestions.org](#)
6. [DesiringGod.org](#)
7. [Bibleproject.com](#)

Apps:

1. [First 5 Bible Study App](#)
2. [Logos Bible App](#)
3. [She Reads Truth/He Reads Truth Apps](#)
4. [YouVersion Bible App](#)
5. [Dwell Bible App](#)
6. [Blue Letter Bible](#)
7. [The Bible ProjectVersify](#) - free Scripture memorization app
8. [BibleRef](#) - Commentary by Got Questions

Sermons/Podcasts/Bible Studies:

1. The Bible Project, [The Bible Project's YouTube Sermons](#)
2. Cobble, Tara-Leigh [The Bible Recap](#)
3. Collins, Jon & Tim Mackie [The Bible Project Podcast](#)
4. Harney, Kevin G. & Burge, Gary M. [NIV Application Commentary Resources: John Bible Study](#)
5. Harney, Kevin G. & Garland, David E. [NIV Application Commentary Resources: Mark Bible Study](#)
6. Harney, Kevin G. & Keener, Craig S. [NIV Application Commentary Resources: Revelation Bible Study](#)
7. Harney, Kevin G. & Moo, Douglas J. [NIV Application Commentary Resources: Romans Bible Study](#)
8. Moore, Beth [Living Proof Podcast](#)
9. Smith, Angie [Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story](#)

Resources for Kids:

1. Fuller Youth Institute, [Sticky Faith Resources](#)
2. Lloyd-Jones, Sally [*The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name*](#)
3. YouVersion, [The YouVersion Bible App for Kids](#)