

SOMEWHERE
BETWEEN
HERE
AND
THERE
BIBLE STUDY

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Introduction

Thank you for downloading this free Bible study companion to *Somewhere Between Here and There*! We all have our own story, and God desires to know each and every one of us individually. So, I wanted to give you the opportunity to study as I did when writing and reflecting on where God has led me.

Each chapter covers the same or similar material as the book, but gives you space to read and reflect on your own. There are outlined text fields for you to put in your answers and thoughts. I've also included space at the end of each lesson for reflections, passages, and questions that go beyond what's given.

The studies have three main sections:

- » **Preparation** – A brief paragraph explaining the context of the lesson. This also includes an initial question or two to get you in the mindset of the subject.
- » **Comprehension** – A series of Bible passages to read and interpret. Can be a narrative or a series of topical passages. The main goal is to know what the Bible is actually saying. What's the stated purpose of the passage? Who are the characters? What do those characters do? How do you understand what you just read? What insight do you gain from character choices?
- » **Application** – These questions get at the heart of how you will respond to what you just reflected on in the Comprehension section.

Bible study should always be Christ-centered. So, interspersed within these three sections are questions and observations on how the subject relates to Christ and how we can use His example to further inform the application of scripture. Any question that deals with Jesus will be marked with a “†”

Feel free to do these studies on your own or with others. Add your own passages and questions to reflect on. I pray that as you study, you grow in your own relationship with God.

Getting to Know Him

Preparation

Read your Bible, pray everyday, and you will grow, grow, grow.

Those are the first lines of a well-known Christian kids' song. It outlines the best way to grow and get to know God. All of us are introduced to Him in some way. Unfortunately, some may be introduced to a misrepresentation of Him via an abusive parent or a fanatical "Christian" or a cold, unwelcoming church. Perhaps some were blessed with a caring community or a loving household that represented Christ fully.

Regardless of the introduction you had, I invite you to get to know God through His own Word.

How were you first introduced to God? Did you grown up in a Christian household? Through a friend or family member? An event? A pamphlet?

How do you get to know someone you've met for the first time? How long do you think it would take to know them well? Think about how those answers can relate to getting to know God.

Comprehension

Read **Genesis 5:21-24**, **Genesis 18:16-33**, **Luke 10:38-42**, † **Mark 1:35**, and **Daniel 6:10**
How did these people spend time with God? What does their relationship with Him look like?

Read **Hebrews 12:1-3**. How does this text give insight on our spiritual walk with God?

† Read **John 14:7-11**. Jesus describes Himself as the ultimate embodiment of God. Skim through one of the Gospels and make a note of qualities and characteristics that Jesus shows that reveal the Father.

Read **Luke 18:1-8** and **Luke 11:1-13**. What's the purpose of these stories and illustrations?

How do the parables in the previous question give insight into God's character and how we relate to Him through prayer?

Read **1 Thessalonians 5:17**. What does it mean to you to “pray without ceasing?”

Read **Mark 9:24 and 11:20-24**. How does faith play a part in our relationship with God?

Application

Looking at your own life, how can you get to know God for yourself? What are some good ways to know God?

On the other side, what are some distractions that have hindered your relationship with God? What routines or actions can you do to change that?

For one week, try having a regular quiet time spent reading the Bible (e.g. a couple chapters from a Gospel or a Psalm) and having a small prayer afterwards based on the reading. Keep track of what you read and pray for. Afterwards, is there a change in how you see or relate to God? For encouragement, read Luke 4:1-13 to see how reading and knowing God and His word can help with temptation.

Use this space for further notes, reflections, or scriptures that come up in your study.

A New Identity

Preparation

Where do you place your identity? When we think about who we are, we may go to our profession, schooling, hobbies, ethnicity, culture, gender, family, possessions, and more. It's rarely, if ever, based on one thing and one thing only. But I'm sure there are parts of our lives that have more sway or influence than others. This study will show us our identity in God as His creation.

If you were to think of where you place your main sense of identity, what would it be? In your academics? Profession? How is that challenged? How is it affirmed?

Comprehension

Read **Luke 15:11-32**. What is the context of this parable? Who is it for and why was it told?

Where do the two sons place their identity?

How did the two sons understand the character of the father and how did that understanding inform their decisions?

Read the following scriptures. How do they describe the worth we have? **Genesis 1:27, Psalms 139:14, 1 John 3:1, Luke 12:6-7, and Psalms 8:3-5.**

† How does Jesus see us? Read **Matthew 13:44-46, Matthew 10:29-31, Matthew 6:26, and John 17:20-26.**

Application

Reflect on thinking about approaching life as a person made in God's image, heir to everything He owns. Does it change the answer made in the *Preparation* question?

As you internalize the immense value you have in God's eyes, how can you be sure this doesn't turn into pride?

How can you affirm this value in those around you?

Use this space for further notes, reflections, or scriptures that come up in your study.

Creative By Design

Preparation

Everyone has some kind of gift or talent. Likely multiple. Some are gifted with numbers, able to understand finances or complex math problems with ease. Some can speak with such eloquence and charisma to encourage and empower their hearers. Others are amazingly hospitable, always cheerfully visiting others and making gifts for them. There are likely as many abilities as there are people in the world!

1 Corinthians 10:31 says that in whatever we do, we ought to bring glory to God. In this lesson, we'll explore what the Bible says about using our unique creativity for His glory.

What talents do you think you have?

Think of someone you know. What talents have you noticed in them and how has it impacted you?

Comprehension

Read the parable of the talents in **Matthew 25:14-30**. Summarize what happened in your own words. How do the servants view their master and how does that influence their actions?

Read **1 Corinthians 12** and **Ephesians 4:7-16**. How does God organize His people to fulfill His mission?

Read the following examples of people using their talents. How did they fulfill their mission?

Building the temple, its artifacts, and clothing for the priests. **Exodus 28:1-4, 31:1-11, 35:25-26**.

Dorcas. **Acts 9:36-39**

† The Bible doesn't talk a lot about Jesus's upbringing as a carpenter's Son. But how can you imagine His talent for carpentry helping in His gospel mission?

Application

Where are places that you can use the gifts and talents given to you? In your profession? At home? At school? At church?

Remembering how the parable ended for the servant who buried his talent, have you had a time where you refused to use your gift for something? What happened?

Have you experienced *added* talents while using a gift? Describe the experience. If you haven't yet, what are some talents you think could be added as you use your current ones? (e.g. a gift for hospitality can lead to a growth in craftsmanship or communication skills)

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Community

Preparation

A well-known quote is “tell me the company you keep and I’ll know who you are.” Much of our character and direction in life is directly influenced by the community closest to us, especially our friends. Investing in the friendships that mutually uplift make for a beneficial relationship that will be a joy for all involved.

We’ll take a look at some different types of friendships in the Bible and see how best we can both find good friends and be a good friend.

Think about the community you have or want to have. What qualities make a good or bad friend to you? What qualities would you want/not want for your whole community?

Who is someone who has influenced you (whether for good or bad)?

Comprehension

Read **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**. What benefits come from forming friendships?

Read **Proverbs 13:20, 18:24, 24:26, and 27:6**. What do these passages say about friendship and the qualities to look for in a good friend?

Read the following examples of friendships and mentorships. What insights do you gain for how to be a good friend or mentor/mentee? How did the mentors use their influence for good?

David and Jonathon. **1 Samuel 18:1-4, 1 Samuel 20**.

Dorcas. **Acts 9:36-39**.

Ruth and Naomi. **Ruth 1:16-17.**

† Jesus and Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. **Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-5.**

Application

Reflect on your friendships. Do they embody the characteristics found above? Do you as a friend reflect those characteristics too?

What are some practical ways you can invest in the healthy friendships around you? (e.g. invite a friend over for dinner regularly)

Stopping the Hustle

Preparation

The first humans on Earth were given a command and a blessing to work, to rule the world as God would and to tend the garden that God had planted. Even after the fall, we are still expected to work, to earn a living and contribute to the world we live in.

However, this expectation to work can quickly become something toxic if it becomes our primary purpose. This leads to over-working and burnout. Knowing the needs of His people, God also gives a command to rest from our work for our benefit. In this lesson, we'll look at some ways Bible characters approached their work and how God has shown us how (any why) to rest.

What would you do if you had infinite time? Or even 24 free hours to do anything you wanted?

Comprehension

Read and reflect on **Ecclesiastes 3:1-11**. How did the author capture the different aspects of life?

Read **Genesis 39:1-6, 20-23** and **Daniel 1:8-21**. Although both were held captive, how did Joseph and Daniel approach the work given to them?

† Read **John 4:34-38** and **9:1-5**. How did Jesus do the work that He was sent for? How did He want the disciples to fulfill their Gospel mission?

Read **Exodus 20:8-11**, **Deuteronomy 5:12-15**, and **Isaiah 66:22,23**. What is the context of the command to observe the Sabbath on the seventh day? Is rest the only part of it? What's the reason behind it and where did it originate from (*see also Genesis 1-2*)?

Application

We are commanded to both work and rest. How can you better work and rest as God intended?

What are some delightful ways to rest on the Sabbath and keep it holy and remember our Creator? (See *Isaiah 58:13,14, Leviticus 23:3, Exodus 20:8-11*)

If you aren't already, prayerfully try to keep the Sabbath for one month. Use the time to remember and reflect on God as Creator and Redeemer. Did it change anything in how you work or rest?

Use this space for further notes, reflections, or scriptures that come up in your study.

The Greatest of These

Preparation

What is love? It's an age-old question that has a variety of answers. Circulating around the internet are children's definitions of love. My favorite is, "love is a puppy who licks you on the face...even after you've let him alone all day."

Love is an abstract concept, and I equate it to trying to describe the taste of water. People say that even if you can't describe it, you'll know it when you feel it. And love is obviously important, especially since all Ten Commandments can be boiled down into two commandments, love God and love humanity (Matthew 22:35-40). But what exactly is love? And why is it so great?

How would you describe love?

What are some expectations you have about love, whether romantic, familial, or otherwise? Where did they come from?

Comprehension

Read **1 Corinthians 13**. How does Paul describe love?

Let's look at a few biblical couples; none are perfect. Skim through the following chapters. What flaws do you see? What are some insights you get about living as a couple given what you read in 1 Corinthians 13?

Adam and Eve. **Genesis 3**

Abraham and Sarah. **Genesis 12, 16**

Priscilla and Aquila. **Acts 18:24-26, Romans 16:3**

Give examples of other biblical couples and the insights you get from them.

Application

Regardless of your current relationships and friendships, how can you better show love to others based on the insights learned above?

Use this space for further notes, reflections, or scriptures that come up in your study.

Trusting Anyway

Preparation

We all are living in a broken world with broken people. Evil seems to surround us and win out with no hope of good having a chance. The question on many minds is, how could a loving, all-powerful God allow all this evil to keep happening? Does He see? Does He care?

In this study we'll take a look at a man who had the same question. The answer may not be what you're looking for, but we'll see that God is trustworthy and just.

Have you ever had a time when you'd question God? Describe that moment. How did you feel? How did you get through it?

Comprehension

Read **Job 1-2**. A lot is happening here, but what's the main source of conflict here? Are there other conflicts going on?

Read **Job 8 and 11**. This is just a part of Job's friends' responses (feel free to also read Job in its entirety; it's a fascinating book). How do they think of God's justice? What's their conclusion based on that assumption?

† Read **Job 32 and 33**. How is Elihu's response different from the other friends'? What kind of hope does it give?

Read **Job 38 and 42:1-6**. How does God answer Job's question demanding that God explain Himself? What is Job's response?

† Read **Matt 26:36-46 and Luke 22:39-46**. Reflect on the emotions and conflict going on here with Jesus in Gethsemane. Is there comfort in the fact that He also can relate to being in agony?

Application

When evil overwhelms, it often leaves us flooded with emotion, sometimes forgetting who God is. Psalms can be a perfect thing to read. Skim through the book of Psalms and choose a few you can go to in order to express strong emotion, to remember God's power, and to remember God's justice. (e.g. **Psalms 61**)

Imagine you, like Job's friends, encountered someone who went through a tragedy. How would you be a friend to them? What resources would you point them to?

Use this space for further notes, reflections, or scriptures that come up in your study.

I Am Here

Preparation

“You are here”

Go to any complex building, like an airport, hospital, or (back in the “old days”) a mall, and you’ll likely find a map outlining where everything is. It will show where all the bathrooms are, where the different sections are located, maybe some key restaurants. On any of those maps, you’ll see the “You are here” sticker. It orients you. It gives you a starting point to plan your next steps. Without it, you might be confused and it will take you longer to get where you want to go.

When it comes to growth, so much of progress starts with acknowledging where you are then making the decision to move forward. We’ll look at the stories of three Bible characters to see how they grew (whether for good or bad), and to see what insights we can use in our own growth process.

When you look at your spiritual journey, where are you? Where would you like to be?

Comprehension

† Read **John 8:2-11**, **Luke 10:38-42**, and **John 20:11-18**. What was Mary Magdalene’s trajectory? How did Jesus interact with her?

Read **Daniel 1-5**. What was the key vice that King Nebuchadnezzar had to deal with? How did God ultimately remove it? How did his successor respond to his change?

Read **Genesis 12:4-5, 13:7-12, and 19**. What was Lot's trajectory? He seemed promising, but how did he fall? Can you identify small steps and compromises along the way?

Application

How do you make sure to keep moving forward in your spiritual walk?

Have you noticed any small steps away from God in your life? If so, what measures can you take to move back toward Him?

Use this space for further notes, reflections, or scriptures that come up in your study.

Getting To See Him

Preparation

At its core, the Bible is the story of Jesus. Every book points to Him so that we could get to know Him, share the Gospel with others, and prepare to meet Him when He comes again. One question that comes to mind is, how do we prepare for His coming? Do we sit and wait? Do we need to do anything?

Broadly speaking, Jesus gave His disciples, and by extension us, the calling to go, teach, and baptize (Matthew 28:8-10). We're all called to be witnesses to those around us. Let's take a look at what that looks like.

When was a time you were excitedly anticipating something? How were you preparing for it?

Comprehension

Read Mark 13. What is Jesus saying here? How many times does He say to "watch"?

Often, we focus on the scary bits and can become fearful of future. What hope does Jesus give in Mark 13?

Read Matthew 24:45-51 (also consider the context of the whole chapter as it talks about Jesus's Second Coming as well). In this parable, what do you think the faithful servant would be doing as he waits for his master?

Application

How can you prepare actively for Christ's coming?

What's your testimony as a whole? Really take the time to write it out in full, praising God for how He's led so far.

How can you use your testimony to reach others?

Use this space for further notes, reflections, or scriptures that come up in your study.

Thanks again for downloading!

I hope you've gained some insight in your studies and that you got to know God a little bit more. Feel free to share this with others! If you want to purchase the book *Somewhere Between Here and There*, click [here](#).