



Application Guide for Narratives

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ACCELERATING
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Introduction

2 Timothy 3:15-17 ULB

15 You know that from childhood you have known the sacred writings. These are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture has been inspired by God. It is profitable for doctrine, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness. 17 This is so that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Scripture tells us what Scripture is good for and what it produces:

1. Knowing the Scriptures will help you to be wise and to understand the way of salvation.
2. Scripture teaches us how to live our lives.
3. Scripture gives us the measure of right and wrong.
4. The Christian who studies Scripture will be trained in godliness, will be shown how to live, will be taught how to have a relationship with God, and how to live with love toward others.
5. The Christian who studies the Word of God has everything needed to live for the glory of God.

The purpose of this guide is:

1. To provide a resource within the Christian community to gauge the effectiveness of Scripture in their lives.
2. To teach believers who can read the Scripture in their own language, new ways to study the Bible and apply it so they can experience the full measure of God's design for their life in him.
3. To provide the Christian community with a transferable, expandable, training guide to lead Christians to a deeper understanding and knowledge of the Bible.
4. To explain difficult words and ideas that are found in the Bible.
5. To help Christians discover ways of expressing love for God in worship that is built on the teaching of the Word of God.

The results of using this guide are:

1. The believing community will grow in their understanding of the Bible, and they will learn how to understand its message and to follow the instructions for Christian living and the worship of God.
2. Those in the churches will learn to serve and love other people as Christ has loved them.

3. Christians will experience growth, the disciplines of the Christian life (prayer, generosity, purity, and the like) as they live out their faith and as they grow in their trust in God.

The primary audience for this guide is:

1. Christians who want to understand the message of the Bible and who want to follow the teaching of the Bible, so that God is honored and that Christians grow in spiritual maturity.
2. Spiritual leaders in communities who have learned to teach the message of the Bible, and so by their teaching they would encourage spiritual growth in the Church and that would lead to spiritual maturity in those who worship and serve together in the local Church.

The expected outcome of this guide is:

1. Christians and those who are interested in the Christian faith will find a deeper understanding of the meaning of the Bible and they will be encouraged to apply the message of the Bible in their own lives.
2. Those who use it will understand and apply the message of the Bible individually as they live their lives for God, and in the broader community of their neighbors, and especially with other Christians in the worshiping community.
3. Those who use it will gain confidence in their translation of Scripture and be bold to share it with others.
4. Those who use it will help others to understand and apply the Word of God to their lives.
5. Those who use it will be inspired and challenged to help other language groups to get Scripture in their own language.

This guide is designed to be:

1. An additional resource that stands alongside and supports the teaching found in the Reviewers' Guide.
2. A series of questions based on the passages used in the Reviewers' Guide that ask the participants to apply what they are reading to their own experience and life.
3. A group or community process overseen by a team leader.

To use this guide, a group of Christians with new access to Scripture in their heart language could agree together to read and study the Bible together, and to discuss together the questions that are included in this study guide. One spiritual leader from a Christian church (a pastor, teacher, or leader, or perhaps one of the translators, etc.) should give leadership to the group so that the Applications Guide would be studied together in a group.

How to use this guide:

1. Scripture passages are listed before a series of questions. Read these passages in the newly translated Scripture.
2. The group leader will then ask the group the questions that follow the passages.
3. If possible (in places with high literacy) one person should be assigned to take notes on the answers to questions, especially any questions where individuals disagree or where an answer is unknown.
4. Work through the questions slowly--allow time for everyone to think about the passages and to answer if they choose.
5. At the end of each section of questions is a set of conclusion questions. The answers to these questions should be recorded whenever possible to be shared with a larger audience.

If you have any questions or comments about this guide, please email us at:
translation_services@wycliffeassociates.org

Narratives—The Birth of Jesus, the Christ:

Read: Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-12, Luke 2:1-20

1. What supernatural events surrounded Mary's pregnancy with Jesus?
2. What evidence do you see in Matthew 1:18-25 that Jesus was divinely conceived?
3. If you had been Joseph, what might your thoughts have been when you discovered Mary was pregnant?
4. In what ways did Joseph show his trust in God?
5. Even though Mary and Joseph were blessed by God with parenting the Messiah, they faced certain difficulties. List several of those.
6. How do you respond to difficulties in your life?
7. What about Joseph and Mary inspire you to live differently or respond differently to difficulties in life?
8. Why do you think it is significant that Jesus was born in a stable?
9. Where might you expect him to be born?
10. Why do you think the shepherds were scared to death by the appearance of the angels?
11. How would you have reacted to angels?
12. Why do you think it is significant that the first visitors the Messiah had were shepherds?
13. The angels said that their good news "will be to all people." What does this mean?
14. What did the angels mean when they called Jesus a "Savior, which is Christ the Lord"?
15. What in this story indicates that Jesus is God?
16. Why do you think it is significant that wise men from the east came to worship Jesus?
17. How did they know where to find him?
18. What was supernatural about their visit?
19. In what ways does the story of the wise man challenge your faith in God?
20. List the Old Testament prophecies that are fulfilled in these passages on Jesus' birth.

Conclusion:

1. What do you understand better about God, yourself, and others from studying these passages?
2. Can you list five ways you could apply the message of these passages to your life?
3. When you pray, what can you thank God for from these passages?
4. Based on these passages, can you think of anything you need to repent of before God?

Narratives—The miracles of Jesus

Read Matt. 14:13-21, Luke 17:11-19 and John 2:1-12

1. What do you learn about Jesus from these miracles?
2. What kinds of needs did Jesus meet with his miracles?
3. What kinds of needs has Jesus miraculously met in your life?
4. What kinds of needs do you pray for him to miraculously provide for?
5. What do you think motivated Jesus to perform miracles?
6. Think about how the people reacted to his miracles. What were some reactions?
7. What do you think is an appropriate reaction to his miracles?
8. Why do you think people responded the way they did?
9. How do these stories of Jesus' miracles build your trust in him?

Conclusion:

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Narratives—The parables of Jesus

Read Matt. 18:21-34, Matt. 20:1-16 and Luke 10:25-37

Parable from Matt. 18-21-34

1. Who do you identify with in the parable?
2. In what ways?
3. Why do you think the forgiven servant went out and demanded payment of a much smaller debt from someone who owed him?
4. Imagine if the forgiven servant had realized how precious the gift of his forgiven debt was. How might he have behaved? What might he have done differently?
5. What do you learn about forgiveness from this passage?
6. In what ways can you change your attitude and actions based on what you learn here?

Parable from Matt. 20:1-16

1. In what ways does the landowner represent God?
2. Why were the men who were hired first angry with the landowner?
3. Did they have a right to be angry?
4. What do you think the men who had come last felt like when they got paid?
5. Who do you identify with in this parable? In what ways?
6. What does this parable teach you about God's ways and purposes for His kingdom?

Parable from Luke 10:25-35

1. Who do you identify with in this parable?
2. Why do you think both the Levite and the Priest avoided the man who had been robbed?
3. How does the Samaritan's treatment of the man who was robbed, challenge you?
4. What most surprises you about this story?
5. What do you think the disciples and other hearers of this story thought?
6. What does this parable teach you about God and how he desires for you to live?

Conclusion:

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Historical Narratives—The early Church

Acts 2:1-13; Acts 9:1-19; Acts 14:8-18

1. Have you experienced miraculous events like those in Acts 2?
2. In what ways has God made himself known in your community?
3. Why do you think God chose to empower the disciples to speak in a way that multiple languages could understand?
4. In what ways do you experience the empowerment of the Holy Spirit?
5. Describe how you think Saul must have felt when Jesus met him on the road to Damascus?
6. Describe how you think Ananias felt about going to Saul and praying for him?
7. What do you think Saul spent his three days praying about?
8. Why did the people of Lystra want to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas?
9. Do you understand this response by the people? Why or why not?
10. Why do you think they stoned Paul?
11. How did Paul survive the stoning?
12. Have you or anyone you know suffered persecution or physical abuse for testifying to Jesus?
13. If so, how did that affect your walk with God?

Conclusion:

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3. When you pray, what can you thank God for from these passages?
4. Based on these passages, can you think of anything you need to repent of before God?

Apocalyptic narratives

Revelation 4:1-11; 12:1-9

1. How would you describe God based on these passages?
2. What in these passages gives you hope for the future?
3. How would you describe heaven based on what John saw?
4. How would you describe the attitudes of the 24 elders?
5. What/who do you think the woman represents in chapter 12?
6. What about these passages surprise you?
7. What about it gives you courage to follow God?
8. How do these passages affect your thinking about the future?

Conclusion:

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2. Can you list five ways you could apply the message of these passages to your life?
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