**BOOK 4 BEGINNING YOUR NEW LIFE IN GOD’S WORD**

**BEGINNING YOUR NEW LIFE SERIES**

The Christian life is not meant to be just a list of rules and regulations or a programme of rituals and ceremonies. God intends us to have a vital, personal relationship with Him. This is why He revealed Himself to mankind in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This booklet is part of a series designed to help a believer grow in his relationship with Jesus Christ.

**TITLES IN THIS SERIES**

1. **Beginning your new life with Christ**
2. Beginning you new life of Fellowship with Christ
3. Beginning you new life in the Holy Spirit
4. **Beginning you new life in God’s Word**
5. Beginning your new life of Prayer
6. Beginning you new life of Discipleship

**BEGINNING YOUR NEW LIFE IN GOD’S WORD**

A child learns from his parents and enjoys listening to them. This is healthy for his growth. As children of God, we need to listen and learn from Him so we may grow to spiritual maturity. The Bible is God’s answer to this need.

The Bible speaks to us with life-changing power, as no other book ever could. The message of Christ gives us hope and peace that surpass all else.

How is the Bible special? How can I understand it?

How can the Bible help me grow more like Christ?

This booklet will help you answer the above questions.

**The Bible is Special**

The Bible is the single most widely read book in human history. Millions of copies continue to be distributed. It has appeared in more languages than any other book in history. It has been better preserved, with more ancient copies than any other ancient book (despite efforts by its enemies to wipe it out!). It is the only real ancient book of prophecy, and its prophecies have been completely accurate.

1. How were the prophets able to predict so many things about Jesus and about the future? 2 Peter 1:21\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. How is the Bible different from ordinary story books? 2 Peter 1:16\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Since the Bible is “God-breathe” (inspired), what is it useful for? 2 Timothy 3:16\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“God-breathed” or “inspired” means that God put the words in the hearts and minds of the biblical writers.

**The Bible is all about Christ**

God does not change or need to learn new things. He knows everything. In the beginning, he made a plan to save people, and He reveled to people more and more of His plan as the Bible was written. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God’s eternal plan of salvation.

1. What did Jesus say the Old Testament was written about? Luke 24:44\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. (a) Read Hebrews 1:1-2. How did God speak in the past?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(b) How has God spoken to us in our time?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus Christ is the theme of the whole Bible. He ties it all together. As you read it, keep Him in view and you won’t get lost.

**The Bible speaks to us today**

God’s revelation was not meant only for the time when the Bible was written, but it includes all times and all people. God uses the Bible in our lives today.

1. What are some of the benefits you can get by reading the Scriptures? Romans 15:4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What special qualities of God’s word are listed in Hebrews 4:12?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**How to benefit the most from the bible**

Five ways we can listen to God through His Word: Hearing, Reading, Studying, Memorizing and Meditating.

HEARING: we all need to learn God’s word through hearing it read or preached. For those why cannot read, hearing may be the only way to learn the word of God. They can hear it in church, in a Bible study group, or ask others to read it to them at home.

READING: the Bible helps us to remember it more than hearing does. Someone who reads the Bible a lot does not easily go astray. Make it your practice to read all the way through the Bible.

STUDYING: is when we read it with pen and paper in hand. We write notes and ask questions to understand what the Bible means. You may choose to study a chapter or a paragraph at a time. Or you may study a topic like prayer, or a character like Peter.

1. Why should we do our best to study the Bible? 2 Timothy 2:15\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

MEMORIZING: means you learn a verse by memory (word for word), so you can repeat it perfectly and easily any time you need to do so.

Many people memorize verses of Scripture that can help them deal with a problem they may have. It is not hard to memorize verses on any subject in this way.

Some people memorize whole chapters and books of the Bible, so they can readily have God’s word in their hearts.

1. How can memorizing Scripture help you? Psalm 119:11\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

MEDITATING is the hand’s thumb, which combines with the other fingers to help them work. As you hear read, study, and memorize the Bible, meditate on it too. Meditating means thinking deeply about what God’s word is saying and how to put it into practice. We do not aim at just collecting Bible knowledge, but to allow it to transform our lives.

1. Why did God tell Joshua to meditate on the Book of the Law? Joshua 1:8\_\_\_

**Conclusion**

In light of this lesson, what are some of the things you know are true about the Bible?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Action Points**

1. Consider making the following pledge:

Realizing that prayer and Bible study are essential for my spiritual growth, I am going to set aside from\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Time of the day) each day to pray the Bible.

I will memorise\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Verse).

I will study \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Book, chapter, verses, topic, etc).*

1. Read Psalm 119
2. Study book five (5) of the ten Basic Steps to Christian Maturity, entitled “The Christian and the Bible.”
3. Visit a Christian bookshop and purchase a pack of memory verse cards or make your own cards.

**Next Appointment**

*Day/Date………………………………………………. Time………………………*

**Bible verses used in this booklet**

*These Scripture quotations are from the NIV Bible*

1. 2 Peter 1:21. “For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”
2. 2 Peter 1:16. “We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”
3. 2 Timothy 3:16. “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”
4. Luke 24:44. “He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”
5. Hebrews 1:1 – 2 “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.”
6. Romans 15:4. “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”
7. Hebrews 4:12. “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and narrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”
8. 2 Timothy 2:15. “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”
9. Psalm 119:11. “I have hidden your word in my heart that I may not sin against you.”
10. Joshua 1:8. “Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

Suggested Answers:

1. They spoke from God by the Holy Spirit
2. The Bible was written by eyewitnesses, not story tellers.
3. It is used for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.
4. The Old Testaments is about Christ
5. (a) He spoke through the prophets

(b) He has spoken by His Son, Jesus Christ

1. The Bible gives teaching, rebuking, endurance, encouragement and hope.
2. The word of God is living, active, sharp and penetrating and it judges us.
3. So that we may correctly handle the word of truth.
4. Memorizing the word can keep me from sinning against God.
5. He would then be prosperous and successful.