

BASIC BIBLE GUIDE

REGARDLESS OF YOUR BELIEFS

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Basic Bible Guide's (BBG) mission:

**Help ALL people, regardless of their beliefs,
understand the Bible with a fact-based
easy to use system, free of cost.**

**To be part of this mission, will you donate at least 1 dollar a month
so we can translate BBG for people around the world?**

(Basic Bible Guide is a IRS approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit, public charity.)

Please visit us at our website!

www.BasicBibleGuide.com

THANK YOU AND MANY BLESSINGS!

*A special thanks to all my family and friends
who helped inspire, edit, improve, encourage
and support BBG throughout these 30-plus years.*

Daniel Paul Kennedy, Founder

(Visit BasicBibleGuide.com to read the Founder's true life story.)

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SESSION 1

Basic Bible Guide (BBG) is designed to be so straightforward that anyone can lead a group or participate in one even if they have never opened a Bible. This page instructs how to lead a group. Whether you are leading a group or doing BBG on your own please read the following instructions to learn how easy leading your own group can be! If you are doing a group now, read these instructions out loud to the participants in the group so anyone can see how easy it is to start their own group.

Instructions for the “Guide” (Group Leader)

1. **If available:** Have extra Bibles and pens or pencils.
2. Start and finish each session on time. It is optional for anyone to come early or stay longer. Just make sure the actual session segments are in the allotted time.
3. Follow the brief instructions at the beginning and end of each session.
4. Some of the participants may know more about the Bible than the group’s Guide, and that’s okay. The Guide’s function is to simply stick with the curriculum.
5. BBG is designed with 12 sessions that are 60 minutes each. Allow extra time in the beginning to allow participants to arrive, and extra time at the end for discussion.
6. Pick a set time and day of the week for the group to meet.
7. No discussion is allowed during each session, as conversation will prolong the session indefinitely, and disrupt the flow of this course.

Introduction to Basic Bible Guide

Guide – Before you start have each group member introduce themselves by saying their name and where they are from. Instruct each participant (including yourself) to take turns reading (out loud) one numbered item each (so the group will stay together). If someone prefers not to read, they say “pass” and the group will skip over them.

1. Basic Bible Guide/BBG was designed so anyone who can read, regardless of their beliefs, will be able to not only take this course, but will be able to lead (or guide) this course with others.
2. BBG is a straightforward course with not much flash or “entertainment”, and although it is quick and easy, it is probably different than other formats you may have encountered. BBG is intended to show people what the Bible actually says. BBG is not intended to indoctrinate, teach, offer commentary or biased opinions (there are MANY programs available that will do that).
3. BBG is an overview of the entire Bible; all of its 66 separate writings/“books” are reviewed. For a much fuller understanding, it is recommended that you read the entire Bible as you go through this course (or as soon as you are able) from front to back (the same order the course is designed). If you can read a 120 to 130-page book each week you will be able to read the whole Bible in 12 weeks. However, if you do not, BBG will still deliver a remarkable understanding of the Bible.
4. You will also be able to answer questions, such as:
 - a. What does the Bible really say, and where did it come from?
 - b. Is it factual or just fairy tales?
 - c. Is it relevant in today’s culture?
 - d. Does it answer the tough questions that I have about life?
5. We cover a lot in this course, and you may feel that you will not retain as much as you would like, but as you continue to read the Bible, the more information you will acquire.
6. Please understand if there seems to be something or various facts missing, BBG is only an overview. The majority of the Bible is not read during this course, and that is one of the reasons BBG recommends reading the entire Bible.
7. Also recognize, as a particular passage is read in BBG, there may be other areas of the Bible that cover the same topic. So, do not assume to have a thorough understanding of how the Bible views this topic, or that the Bible, as a whole, agrees or disagrees with what is being read. A more complete study is required to gain accurate knowledge of these topics.
8. As you go through this program/the Bible expect to discover insights, ideas, stories and concepts that will challenge you, be thought provoking, you may not understand, you may not agree with, or may even find offensive.
9. With this in mind, make the commitment right now to find out for yourself what the Bible actually says, and complete this entire course; as other books need to be read to the end in order for the reader to grasp and understand the concept in its entirety, the Bible works the same way. Remember, there are no teachings or opinions; BBG is only a guide to show you what the Bible declares.

Instructions for Basic Bible Guide (BBG)

Note: While BBG can be completed with a group or individually, the following instructions are mainly designed for a group setting. If BBG is being done individually, continue to read these instructions, as most of them will pertain to you.

This course can only be completed if a few simple guidelines are followed:

1. You will need a Bible (preferably ESV but any Bible can be used), a Basic Bible Guide manual and a pen for note-taking.
2. Attend each session and be on time (if possible).
3. Do not ask any questions or have discussion during the actual session time (approximately 60 minutes), or you will not finish on time (or at all).
4. You may write questions or comments on the corresponding page of this manual for your future reference, so you can discuss them during the Discussion/Question & Answer period, which is typically after each session time.
5. At the beginning and end of each session of BBG your group will turn to the Contents in the front of your Bible and read the books of the Bible out loud together. This will assist in knowing where the books of the Bible are located as well as aiding your overall understanding of the Bible. The books have been named for various reasons and they are covered during this course.
6. During each session do your best to stay with the other readers and don't be tempted to read passages that are not listed or you may miss the flow of the course or an important passage. You will also want to be up to speed during the Discussion/Q&A period.
7. Throughout BBG you will find "**Reminders:**" and "**Notes:**" that will assist you in understanding the sections and passages of the Bible.
8. At the end of each session (after the instructions for the guide) are "Optional Discussion Questions". These have been included to assist in initiating discussion on some of the Scriptures that were covered in that session and may or may not be used (they are optional).
9. Although BBG's current format was designed to be implemented in a group setting (meeting once a week for 12 weeks, in approximately 60 minute segments), it can also be accomplished individually and within any time constraints. BBG can be stopped and started as your (or your group's) time allows (i.e. 15, 20, or 30-minute segments), but remember not to allow discussion during the allotted session time, while allowing time for discussion before or after. If the BBG manual is being used under a different time line, do the math to determine how long (how many meetings) BBG will take to be completed.

How to Use the Basic Bible Guide (BBG) Manual with a Group:

1. BBG consists of key scripture passages from every book of the 66 books of the Bible (which you read out loud from your own Bible). Many of these passages are accompanied by scriptures from other places in the Bible (most going back and forth from the Old and New Testaments); these are known as “cross references”.
2. **Note:** The Bible covers thousands of years of history and is a very large book, so the cross-references are considerably helpful in understanding the entire Bible. They link similar ideas, story lines, and prophetic writings, and show when and where these prophecies are fulfilled. All the cross references are noted where they are in the Bible, to assist in further study. As you read the books of the Bible in its table of contents at the beginning and end of each session, you will begin to know what order the books are in.
3. **Note:** Regarding cross references, the New Testament has these scriptures explaining the importance of the relationship between the Old and New Testaments. (Romans 15:4 “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” and I Corinthians 10:11 “Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.”)
4. To keep the group together during the sessions, each participant will take turns reading (out loud). If anyone would prefer not to read, just say “pass” and the group will skip over you.
5. When you start going through the Bible in Session 2, the first reader will begin with reading the boxed-in book overview, the next participant will continue with the following non-highlighted (white) or highlighted (grey) section, and so on and so forth.
6. As an example, the next three participants will read the example on the next page, using the following directions.
7. **Directions:**
 - a) The first reader will start by reading, out loud, the brief summary of the passage located in the center. **Note:** Do not read the scripture reference below it out loud, it is only there for your reference.
 - b) Then turn in the Bible to the referenced verse(s), listed underneath the brief summary and read out loud from your Bible.
 - c) Then read the associated (or cross-referenced) verse(s) below the thinner line within the same colored section (if any).

Note: Not all passages have “cross references”. Only the passages that have a thinner line below them are cross references intended to correspond with the passages that are above the thinner line.

GENESIS OVERVIEW

Title: Genesis is Greek and means “beginning” or “origin”.

Author: Thought to be Moses, although there is no verse in Genesis that states Moses is the author. There are several verses such as Exodus 17:14, Exodus 24:4, and Exodus 34:27 (*read these verses another time*), where Moses is recorded as the author of the law which would cover Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Therefore, most Jewish and Christian scholars agree that the author of Genesis is Moses.

Audience: There is no specific reference of who this book is written to.

Historical setting: The beginning of Earth’s time to Joseph's death in Egypt. (Joseph was one of the 12 sons of Jacob-whose name is changed to Israel). (Approximately Creation- 1445 B.C.)

Number of Chapters: 50

Reminder: The first five books of the Old Testament in Hebrew are called the Torah (meaning "law"). In Greek, these first five books are called The Pentateuch, or “The Book of the Law of the Lord” given by Moses.

God created *everything*
(*Only read these two verses*)

Genesis 1:1, 2:1

Someone helped God create the world.

Genesis 1:26

52 The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” 54 Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ 55 But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” 57 So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” 58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

John 8:52-58

The first sin/disobedience to God
(*only read these 3 verses*)

Genesis 2:16-17, 3:6

Note: Sin is an immoral act considered to be a transgression against divine law.

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

1 John 2:15-16

General Bible Facts

1. The word "Bible" means "The Book" (in Greek - "*Ta Biblia*") implying the book of books - superior to other books.
2. There are 66 separate writings or "books" that make up the Bible. These "books" were given names to identify them, such as Genesis, John and Revelation.
3. Many books have abbreviations, such as Gen. for Genesis, Ex. for Exodus, Eph. for Ephesians, Jn. For John, and Rev. for Revelation.
4. **Note:** VERY IMPORTANT, there are many names of people and places throughout the Bible that are difficult for almost every reader to pronounce. DO NOT get bogged down on trying to say them precisely, just do your best to sound out the word or name and move on.
5. Now, everyone turn to your Bible's contents and read the books of the Bible out loud (together). The purpose of this is to have a better understanding of where Bible verses are located.
6. Each book is divided into "chapters", marked with the larger number at the beginning of each chapter (unless the book has only 1 chapter: these include Obadiah, Philemon, II John, III John, and Jude).
7. Each chapter is divided into "verses", marked by the smaller number at the beginning of each verse. The book name, chapter, and verse number is known as the Bible reference or "address". One of the most well-known Bible verses/addresses is John 3:16. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
8. The Bible is divided into two main sections: the first is known as the "Old Testament" and the second is called the "New Testament".
9. These two sections are then divided into "books": 39 books in the Old Testament, and 27 books in the New Testament.
10. Definition of "Testament"
Webster's Dictionary:
 1. either of two main divisions of the Bible, evidence, witness**American Heritage Dictionary:**
 1. something that serves as tangible proof or evidence
 2. a statement of belief; a credo
11. **The Old Testament** is the first main section of the Bible and was originally written in the Hebrew language. It is comprised of 39 books and covers a time line in history from the creation of the World (in Genesis chapters 1 and 2) through a prophesy of God's "judgment of the wicked" and "blessing" to those who "fear" (or revere) God's name (in Malachi, Chapter 4, approximately 500 B.C.).
12. The Old Testament is the Hebrew (or Jewish) Bible (Tanakh in Hebrew).