

A BOY'S GUIDE TO DISCOVERING HIS BIBLE

JIM
GEORGE



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For my awesome grandsons,

Jacob Seitz

Isaac Seitz

Matthew Zaengle

Ryan Zaengle

May you...

Study the Bible to be wise;

Believe it to be safe;

Practice it to be holy.

Study it through,

pray it in,

work it out,

note it down,

pass it on.¹

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The Bible Is...

the Greatest Book Ever Written



Did you know the Bible is the greatest book ever written? Well, it's true—and here are a few reasons why.

First, *the Bible claims to be written by God*. No other book in the whole world can make that claim. The Old Testament part of the Bible alone states more than 2000 times that it is the Word of God. And in the New Testament, the Bible is referred to as “the Word of God.” The phrase “the Word of God” is used more than 40 times in the New Testament. When Jesus taught, “*the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God*” (Luke 5:1).

And here's another reason the Bible is the greatest book ever written: *The Bible is indestructible*. Over the last 2000 years, there have been many attempts to destroy it, and it is still with us today. The Old and New Testaments have truly stood the test of time!

It's just like the Bible says about itself: “*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever*” (Isaiah 50:8).

Why Is the Bible So Special?

That's the question you and I will be trying to answer in this book. Be ready to learn fascinating new things as you go on the amazing journey to discover how special the Bible is. Maybe you'll want to look at the Bible as an archaeologist would look at a rare and ancient artifact. Thinking and acting like an archaeologist, you would be very careful to inspect and analyze the Bible. You wouldn't want to miss any important clues about its origin and the information it contained, right?

Or maybe you could play the role of a master private investigator. Think of yourself as a young Sherlock Holmes! Having discovered this extremely unusual book, you would look through the Bible and search for clues that would reveal why it's so special.

Whether you see yourself as an archeologist or a private eye, this book you are holding in your hands—*A Boy's Guide to Understanding His Bible*—will be a key that helps you unlock the truth of why the Bible is the greatest book that's ever been written.

Fun in God's Word!

A great place to begin our journey is to see what the Bible says about itself. To do that you will need to have a pen or pencil handy and, of course, your Bible so you can write down some answers found in the Bible as we spell out B-I-B-L-E.

Bible reading is a must. I love summer vacation, don't you? One of my favorite summer activities as a boy was to go to the city pool as many times during the week as possible. I liked taking part in the many swim contests like seeing how fast I could swim back and forth across the pool.

And there was always a contest to see how far you could swim underwater on one breath! With practice I got pretty good at holding my breath. But eventually I had to come up for air. None of us can live without air.

Believe it or not, Bible reading should be as important to you as your need for air. How do these Bible writers describe the importance of reading the Bible? Or, what happens when you read God's Word, the Bible?

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk [the Bible], so that by it you may grow up in your salvation (1 Peter 2:2).

I have treasured the words of His mouth [the Bible] more than my daily bread (Job 23:12).

Think about it: How important is milk to a baby, and how necessary is physical food? The writers of these verses wanted you to know how important the Bible was to them. And now the question is, How important is the Bible to you? For the next seven days, circle each day you read your Bible:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday
Friday Saturday Sunday

Important decisions have their answers in the Bible.

What is the most important decision you have to make today, tomorrow, or this week? Jot it down here:

At this time in your life, many decisions are being made for you by your parents and teachers. Maybe you don't even get to decide what to wear. Your mom is right there to make sure you don't wear the same T-shirt day after day.

But one day you will be making more and more of your own decisions. Does that scare you? Well, I have good news for you! The Bible has information and answers that can help you make those decisions.

Today, though, you get to decide each day how you act. You can be mean, or kind. You can be grumpy, or happy. You can lie, or tell the truth. You can be lazy, or helpful. What information does this verse tell you about your heart and its importance in making decisions??

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it (Proverbs 4:23).

You are to _____

Why? _____

Bible truths give you direction. Have you ever been out hiking and sort of gotten lost? Or have you ever gotten lost or separated from your parents in the shopping mall? When you are sort of lost, you usually look for some landmark or building or familiar store that will help you figure out where you are. Well, the Bible and its truths are like that. They are your landmarks and signs, and they help you to know where you are.

In what direction do these Bible truths point you toward or away from?

My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them (Proverbs 1:10).

God's truth tells you to _____

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character" (1 Corinthians 15:33).

God's truth tells you to _____

Why? _____

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word (Psalm 119:9).

God's truth tell you how to _____

You are to _____

Life changes come from the Bible. If you are like most guys your age, you can't wait to grow up. It seems like older boys get to do all the fun things like drive a car, stay up late, and play video games. Taking time to grow up is good and natural. You want—and need—to grow physically, which is a great change.

God also wants you to grow—to grow up spiritually, to grow and change to become more like Jesus. What do these verses say are some of the changes God wants for your life?

We...thank God...because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing (2 Thessalonians 1:3).

What two changes was the apostle Paul thankful for?

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Peter told Jesus' followers to _____

Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart (2 Timothy 2:22).

What are you to flee from? _____

What four things are you to pursue?

What kinds of friends should you have? _____

Eternal life is found in the Bible. When I was a young boy I found a book in the library about the globe-trotting adventures of the great Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León. As legend has it, Ponce de León is said to have searched for the Fountain of Youth, which people believed could help restore a person's youth. You could say this is another way of searching for eternal life. Obviously Ponce de León didn't find the fountain because he has now been dead for almost 500 years. But Ponce de León did not have to travel halfway around the world to find eternal life.

What do these verses say you must do to have eternal life?

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him [Jesus] shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Whoever believes in the Son [Jesus] has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them (John 3:36).

What happens to those who believe in Jesus?

What happens to those who don't believe in Jesus?

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).

Regarding death: _____

Regarding life: _____

THE BIBLE IS...

the Greatest Book Ever Written

Do you have a favorite book? If so, how many times have you read it? I have a few favorite books too, and I've read them many times. They are entertaining, but not life-changing. But the Bible is very different from any other book you or I will ever read. It really can change lives.

So you can see why understanding the Bible is so important. If this is the greatest book ever written, then you need

to know what God is saying to you. Unlike a favorite book that you may read for pleasure or enjoyment, your Bible will reveal something important and life-changing each time you open it. It is God's personal message to you, and in it He offers you the Words of Life.

★ Understanding Your Bible ★

This chapter helped you to learn some important things about the B-I-B-L-E. On this page, write out the point for each letter. (I'll get you started with "B.")

Bible reading is a must

I _____

B _____

L _____

E _____

Write out one thing you liked, learned, or want to do to better understand God's instructions to you in His Word, the Bible.
