

A GIRL'S GUIDE TO DISCOVERING HER BIBLE

ELIZABETH
GEORGE



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For my precious granddaughters,

Taylor Zaengle

Katie Seitz

Grace Seitz

Lily Seitz

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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Discovering Treasure

Oh, how I wish I could meet you and see your room or your place! Nothing is as special as your personal space. If you're like most girls, you've probably got lots and lots of cool stuff in your space. And I'm guessing that you have lots of colorful pens, pencils, and markers for drawing, making greeting cards, working on crafts, and writing in your journal.

Well, to this day, I still love and use colored pens and markers. And the M-O-S-T special way I use them is when I am reading my Bible. Here's how it all started.

When I was about your mom's age, I purchased my very first Bible. As I was paying for it, I noticed a glass bowl filled with brightly colored highlighter pens on the checkout counter. On a whim, I reached into that bowl and picked out a gold marker. And I prayed! Maybe it was because I had been a Christian for only three days before buying a Bible, but in my heart I prayed and talked to God:

God, I'm a new Christian, and I don't know anything about You. I'm going to start reading my brand-new Bible tomorrow

and mark everything I learn about You, God, with this shiny gold highlighter.

And *then* I spotted a pink highlighter—my favorite color! So I picked it out of the bowl too, and I prayed again:

And God, I don't know anything about being a Christian woman, wife, or mom. When I start reading my new Bible tomorrow, I'm going to mark everything I learn about women and being a woman with my super-special hot-pink highlighter.

And you know what? The next day, I opened up my crisp new Bible, laid out my two new marking pens, and—I discovered treasure! Without knowing it, I was living what the Bible says: If you look for wisdom and understanding “and search for it as for hidden treasure,” you will find it (Proverbs 2:4).

Discovering Treasure

See for yourself what I found on my *first* day of reading my Bible, on the *first* page, in the *first* book of the Bible, in the *first* verse in the Bible! It was my first marking with my gold pen. If your Bible is handy, open it up to Genesis 1:1.

With your pen or pencil or maybe a highlighter pen, mark what you learn about God in this one verse.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

What solid fact does this verse reveal about God?

I kept reading and then I found a verse that called for my pink highlighter pen.

Genesis 1:27—With your pen or pencil or highlighter pen (maybe pink?), mark what you learn about yourself as a woman, as a female.

God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

What do you learn about God in this verse?

What do you learn about man and woman?

As a young woman, I'm sure you hear a lot about self-image. But let's think about "God-image" instead. How

does this verse help you with the way you can and should view yourself? Or, put another way, how would you complete this sentence?

I am created by _____
and in the image of _____

Got Problems?

Believe me, I know from my own years as a girl and from raising two daughters that the early years are challenging ones. Some days it seems like everything is new and you wonder, “What happened while I was sleeping?!” On other days, all you can think is, “I’m bored.”

I’ve heard the heart-cries of thousands of girls, and here are just a few of their questions and problems:

“My brother and sister are driving me crazy!”

“Why do my parents set so many strict rules? I can’t do anything fun.”

“Why is it so hard to find a friend? Is something wrong with me?”

“I wish Mom would let me choose my own clothes.”

“It seems like all my parents do is correct me and nag me about my chores and homework.”

Well, here’s some good news. No matter what your problem is, God has the help and answers you need. No matter how bad things seem or become, if you are faithful to look

to God's Word each day, He has help and answers for your problems. Every time you open your Bible, God gives you:

- instructions on how to live and make right choices
- encouragement and comfort when your heart hurts
- guidelines and wisdom for handling your problems
- strength for dealing with stressful situations
- promises for whatever you worry about

And best of all, you have Him—all of Him—when you read God's Word!

What do you learn about God in the following verses?

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9).

Be _____

Do not _____

Do not _____

For/because _____

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me (Psalm 23:4).

When I _____

I will _____

For/because _____

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds (Psalm 147:3).

God _____

God _____

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:10).

Do not _____

Do not _____

God will _____

God will _____

I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

In a few words, what do these verses say about God's love for you?

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that

the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The source of Scripture _____

The uses of Scripture _____

The end result—"so that" _____

A Few Facts About the Bible

I hope you are beginning to sense how excited I was when God's Word began to guide me. My Bible wasn't just another book on my shelf that was gathering dust. No, it was alive and real! And the same can be true for you as well.

Here are a few important facts about the Bible:

Fact #1: The Bible is supernatural. It is the Word of God. What does this verse tell you about the Bible?

All Scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16).

Fact #2: The Bible is forever. You already know about fads. Clothing styles come and go. Music styles change—and so do hairstyles. Well, God Himself tells us that we can trust 100 percent of His Word. What does this verse tell you about the Bible?

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever (Isaiah 40:8).

Fact #3: The Bible is useful. Read Psalm 19:7-11 and circle each claim the Bible makes for itself, and then underline how useful it can be to you. I have done the first part of verse 7 for you.

7 *The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.*

*The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.*

8 *The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.*

*The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.*

9 *The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.*

*The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.*

10 *They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;*

*they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.*

11 *By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.*

Help for Your Life

As you can see from so many verses in the Bible, God has answers and advice for your every need, your every problem. He has help for your life. Here's what Psalm 119:9 says:

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.

According to this verse, how can you avoid problems and stay out of trouble?

Circle the commands (what God tells you to do) in these next two verses.

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

So that _____

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

Looking at Your Life

As you think back about the subjects covered in this chapter, I hope you will think about your relationship with Jesus. A sure way to get to know more about Him is to read about His life in the Bible, in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Like the Bible says, knowing Jesus as your Savior gives you joy, purpose, and eternal life.

I hope you will also think about how much you value the Bible. Is it important to you, or not so important? Are you eager to listen to what God has to say to you?

Here's some good news. The more you read the Bible, the more exciting it becomes—and the more answers you will find for your problems. And, of course, the more you will grow to be like Jesus.

Right now, jot down at least one thing you will begin to do after reading this chapter.

I want to start _____

A Prayer for You

It's impossible to count the number of times I've heard Christians say, "I just want to know God." Or I hear them pray, "Lord, I want to know You." These are also the desires of my heart, and I'm guessing yours too!

But knowing God doesn't come from sitting on a mountaintop looking off into space. Knowing God comes from

reading what God reveals about Himself in His Word, the Bible. Read the apostle Paul's prayer for all believers. It is my prayer for you:

This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ (Philippians 1:9-10).

Now make this your prayer—substitute the words “my” and “I” every time you see “you” and “your” in the verses above.

A Prayer to Pray

This is my prayer: that _____ love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that _____ may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ (Philippians 1:9-10).