**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: The Search Begins**

Review the video for this session.

**Engage**

Read [Acts 17:10–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac17.10-15).

**Consider**

It’s easy to feel overwhelmed when it comes to studying the Bible. We may feel like we don’t really know where to start. Maybe we simply don’t have the discipline or motivation to stick with it. As we learned from the Bereans, studying the Word of God with others is a great option to explore God’s truth together.

Don’t fall into the trap of not studying the Bible because of your questions or feelings. The more we study the Bible, the more we will understand it. Don’t know where to start? First, do these devotions. Then ask a parent, pastor, or friend what to study next. Lack motivation and discipline? Ask a friend or two to study with you, and choose to stay accountable and disciplined by discussing the Bible together.

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| **QUESTION**What did you learn from the Bereans about studying God’s Word? |

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| **QUESTION**How can studying the Bible in a group be helpful for you? |

**Reflect**

The easy route is to give in to the excuses for why you can’t study God’s Word. It can be tempting to pick the path that has the least resistance. But real growth happens with determination. Studying the Bible consistently will give you confidence in your relationship with God and others. It will also produce stronger faith.

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| **QUESTION**What do you think the difference is between reading the Bible and searching it? |

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| **QUESTION**Do you feel like you are growing through the study of God’s Word? What needs to change or be improved? |

**Activate**

Good job! One day down in the challenge to set aside time to do all five devotions this week. Hold yourself accountable by placing a sticky note with a large 1 on it on top of your Bible. When you finish tomorrow’s devotion, cross out the 1 and make a 2. If you challenged a friend to study with you, text each other something you got out of what you read today.

**Pray**

God, thank You for placing people around me who can help me study Your Word. Thank You for helping me to remain disciplined this week. Help me to do more than just read the Bible. Help me to learn to examine what it’s saying to me. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 2: Set an Example**

**Engage**

Read [1 Timothy 4:6–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Ti4.6-16).

**Consider**

The apostle Paul gave Timothy some good advice in these verses. Even though Timothy was younger, Paul helped him to see the potential and gifts he had to minister to others. He helped others by teaching them God’s truth. We can know and share that truth as well as we study the Bible. If we don’t know the Scriptures, how can we share that truth with others? Sharing God’s truth with others is one way to grow in faith together.

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| **QUESTION**What advice that Paul gave to Timothy stood out to you the most? |

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| **QUESTION**Who in your life encourages you to grow, like Paul did for Timothy? |

**Reflect**

Pointing out the truth of Scripture to each other is one way we develop a community centered around the Bible. But remember, we can’t truly point others to God’s truth unless we are willing to be diligent to understand what God says in the Bible. We can’t lead others to a place we haven’t been ourself. God’s desire is that each of us keeps continually growing.

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| **QUESTION**What do you think it means to keep a close watch on how you live? |

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| **QUESTION**Why should we do this as followers of Jesus? What benefit is there for us? |

**Activate**

Second day down! You’re doing great. Mark the big 2 on your sticky note. Day 3 is tomorrow. You can do it! Take time today to share something you’ve learned with someone else.

**Pray**

God, thank You for being patient with me as I learn to love and study Your Word. Help me to see the importance of reading the Bible. Help me to share truth I have learned from Your Word with others around me. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 3: Well Versed**

**Engage**

Read [Ezra 7:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ezr7.1), [6–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ezr7.6-10).

**Consider**

Long before God called Ezra for this important mission, Era had determined to study and obey God’s laws in His Word. You may think his study was as simple as picking up your Bible, but Ezra was born into a time when God’s people were exiled from Israel and lived under the rule of another nation. Still, Ezra committed to God’s Word. When we determine ahead of time that studying the Bible is a priority, we’re more likely to keep that commitment as well. Sometimes we have rough days and don’t feel like digging into God’s Word. But we can learn from Ezra. He had the right attitude because he had already determined that he would keep studying God’s Word.

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| **QUESTION**What did you learn from Ezra in these verses? |

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| **QUESTION**How did you see that the hand of God was on Ezra? |

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| **QUESTION**How does verse [10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ezr7.10) help to explain what happened to Ezra in verse [6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ezr7.6)? |

**Reflect**

Ezra had the right mindset and attitude when it came to God’s Word. In spite of his circumstances, Ezra knew that he could grow in his relationship with God through His Word. Think back to when you have been most faithful to studying God’s Word. Did it make a big difference in your life? Most likely, you noticed more of God’s presence and favor as a result.

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| **QUESTION**What does it mean to be devoted to God’s Word? |

**Activate**

Day 3 is complete! Mark it down on the sticky note where you’re keeping track.

**Pray**

God, I want Your favor in my life. I choose to be devoted to Your Word and to study it in greater ways. Forgive me for not making You important enough in my life sometimes. Help me to be more like Ezra. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 4: What’s the Point?**

**Engage**

Read [2 Peter 3:10–18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Pe3.10-18).

**Consider**

One day God will judge this world. So, what does this mean for us as followers of Jesus, and how does it relate to studying the Bible? In the days prior to God’s judgment, we need to know what the Bible says more than ever. It’s sad, but there are people who want to twist and misuse God’s Word. The best way to defend against that is by knowing it. And knowing it also leads us to live a holy life and remain strong in our faith.

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| **QUESTION**Why is it important to live a holy life as Jesus’ return gets closer? |

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| **QUESTION**How does studying and knowing the Bible help us in this? |

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| **QUESTION**What role can other believers play in helping us to live a blameless life? |

**Reflect**

There are two things you need to notice in the final four verses. First, Peter pointed out that Paul sometimes wrote things that were hard to understand. As a result, some people tried to distort the Scriptures. The same thing happens today. Second, Peter addressed the community as “dear friends.” He was warning people that he was close to, reminding them to stay grounded in God’s Word and to stay close to one another. He wanted them to be ready for the future, and we should desire the same for our friends, too.

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| **QUESTION**If you knew your life would be over in a month, what would you change about your life? Would you approach the Bible and sharing your faith differently from what you do now? How so? |

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| **QUESTION**What are you doing to make every effort to live a blameless life? |

**Activate**

Day 4 is done! There’s only one more day. But don’t stop on day 5. Make a habit of spending time in the Bible each day, sometimes on your own and other times with friends.

**Pray**

God, help me to see why studying the Bible is so valuable for my life. Thank You for leaving me instructions, especially as I look forward to the day when Jesus returns. Help me to study the Bible more and to understand how to live in these days. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 5: We Are Better Together**

**Engage**

Read [Ecclesiastes 4:9–12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ec4.9-12).

**Consider**

We are more likely to be successful when we have others around us who are helping and cheering us on. Studying the Bible can feel less overwhelming when we learn together. These verses paint the picture pretty clearly. Doing life is just better when we are connected with others. We can also defend ourself from the enemy better when we have others around us. Studying the Bible with others can work the same way. It helps us to learn from different perspectives. It invites God to speak to us through others as well.

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| **QUESTION**What is the writer attempting to tell us in these verses? |

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| **QUESTION**How might these verses connect to growing in our faith? |

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| **QUESTION**What has been your favorite experience when studying the Bible with others? |

**Reflect**

Knowing that we don’t have to rely only on our own strength to study the Bible should bring us a sense of relief. God wants us to be in community. A community can be formed around many things, but one of the best is when we come together to study the Bible. You build a deeper relationship with God and with those around you. You get to experience God transforming you and watch others grow as well. Two are better than one, and a community of believers all learning together can truly do greater things for God.

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| **QUESTION**How have these devotions challenged you to study the Bible with others in community? |

**Activate**

You did it! You’ve spent five days engaging with the Bible. Mark it down on your sticky note and celebrate. What if, from this day forward, you did your best to spend at least five minutes in the Bible every day? If you’re ready for this challenge, consider asking a friend to join you and then talk together about what you read. Challenge each other and learn from God through His Word.

**Pray**

God, thank You that You didn’t create us to only study the Bible alone. You have told us that two are better than one. Help me be the one to help someone else grow closer to You. Help believers all over the world to find a community of people where they can learn from You through Your Word and grow together. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.