



The Jesus Bible STUDY SERIES

Small Group Start Guide

OVERVIEW

STUDY THE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

Front and center in the story of the Bible is Jesus. His role is not confined to the Gospels. He is as visible on the first page as the last. **The Jesus Bible Study Series** follows the six story acts presented in **The Jesus Bible**. You will follow the thread of Jesus from Genesis to Revelation and discover a new depth to the Bible's meaning as you see him in every chapter of the story.

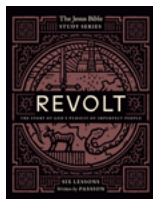
Each workbook in **The Jesus Bible Study Series** includes six lessons. Within each lesson you will find four sections: Welcome, Read, Reflect, and Close sections. The readings, scriptures and discussion/reflection questions throughout each lesson will help you understand the whole story of scripture.



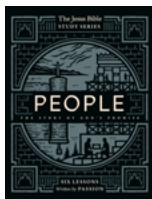
The Bible
Six Acts



1. Beginnings
Genesis 1-2



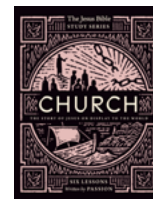
2. Revolt
Genesis 3-11



3. People
Gen. 12 - Malachi



4. Savior
Matt. 1 - Acts 1



5. Church
Acts 2 - Rev. 20

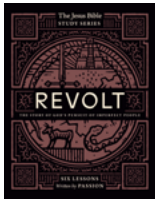


6. Forever
Revelation 21-22

THE SIX ACTS



BEGINNINGS (Genesis 1-2) Your beginning started in the mind of a majestic God. You cannot fully understand the meaning of your story apart from God's story. When you study Scripture, you discover a God with a pursuing love who knows everything about you and has plans and purposes intended to help you live for his glory!



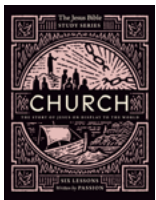
REVOLT (Genesis 3-11) Grasp the depth of human sin so you can begin to make sense of your own struggles and the reality of the fallen world in which we live. You will see that God is not content to just allow you to exist in this desperate state. From the very beginning he's always had a plan to redeem you and restore his relationship with you.



PEOPLE (Genesis 12-Malachi) Explore how the nation of Israel was impacted by the unfolding drama of their cycle of revolt against God, and why the Lord commissioned a chosen people who would be a witness on earth of his faithfulness. God's people turned their backs on him, but God was always quick to show mercy when they repented.



SAVIOR (Matthew 1- Acts 1) Learn about Jesus' mission for humanity, the kingdom of God he ushered in, and how he made a way for all who believe in him to be saved. Even though God may feel distant at times, he is always working for your good and his glory.



CHURCH (Acts 2 - Revelation 20) The church is God's plan to save people through Christ, gather them, send them into the world to share the gospel, connect them in unity, and provide them with gifts to do his work. Explore God's plan, purpose, and mission for his church—and the role that you have to play in this global community.



FOREVER (REVELATION 21-22) God has revealed throughout Scripture that the end of your life on earth is actually the beginning of a new life that will continue on forever. Explore what God has to say about heaven, how anyone who chooses the "narrow way" of Christ can get there, and how you should live in light of this promise from God.



WAYS TO USE THIS SERIES

You can work through the volumes in any order as an individual or in a group setting. Below you'll find ideas for how to use the workbooks throughout the year.

INDIVIDUALS

The workbooks in The Jesus Bible Study Series were created to be used independently of each other. You can start with *Beginnings*, or pick whichever topic appeals to you at the time.

CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

6 STUDIES IN ONE YEAR

Altogether, there are 36 lessons in the series. If your group wants to study through the Bible in a year, we recommend this timeline:

- **January - February:** *Beginnings*
- **February-March:** *Revolt*
- **March – April:** *People* (pause for spring break)
- Break for summer
- **August-September:** *Savior*
- **September-October:** *Church*
- **October-November:** *Forever*
- December is reserved for catch-up or an Advent/Christmas study. (If you liked *The Jesus Bible Study Series*, we recommend Louie Giglio's [Waiting Here for You](#) Video Bible study)



MIX AND MATCH

Your small group may choose to do one study or all six. Have attendees vote, or the leader may choose a timely topic.



WAYS TO USE THIS SERIES

YOUTH GROUPS AND COLLEGE GROUPS

ALL 6 BOOKS IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR (18-20 WEEKS)

Fall Semester: *Beginnings, Revolt, People*

Spring Semester: *Savior, Church, Forever*

Discuss *two lessons* each week. Utilize the questions from the “Welcome” section and go through the “Read” section together. Encourage students to study the “Reflect” and “Close” sections on their own.

(*Optional*) At the end of each semester, revisit the three Acts as a whole and incorporate any passages or questions from the “Reflect” and “Close” sections that you believe are relevant or discussion-provoking.



4 BOOKS IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR (24 WEEKS)

Fall Semester: *Beginnings, People*

Spring Semester: *Savior, Forever*

Covering two workbooks each semester allows you to cover one lesson each week and all of the content in the four books. While these four books are recommended, you can pick any four from the series.



3 BOOKS IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR / 6 BOOKS IN 2 YEARS

Depending on your academic calendar, select three workbooks to study and cover one lesson each week. You can also go through all six books over two school years.



SIX-WEEK SUMMER STUDY

If you have a short window for a Bible study during the summer, pick one of the workbooks and go through one lesson each week.





LEADER'S GUIDE

Thank you for your willingness to lead your group through this series. What you have chosen to do is valuable and will make a great difference in the lives of others. The rewards of being a leader are different from those of participating, and we hope that as you lead you will find your own walk with Jesus deepened by the experience.

The lessons in this study guide are suitable for church classes, Bible studies, and small groups. Each lesson is structured to provoke thought and help you grow in your knowledge and understanding of Christ. There are multiple components in this section that can help you structure your lessons and discussion time, so make sure you read and consider each one.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Before your first meeting, make sure the group members have a copy of this study guide so they can follow along and have their answers written out ahead of time. Alternately, you can hand out the study guides at your first meeting and give the group members some time to look over the material and ask any preliminary questions.

Generally, the ideal size for a group is eight to ten people, which will ensure that everyone has enough time to participate in discussions. If you have more people, you might want to break up the main group into smaller subgroups. Encourage those who show up at the first meeting to commit to attending the duration of the study. This will help the group members get to know one another, create stability for the group, and help you, as the leader, know how to best prepare each week.

Try to initiate a free-flowing discussion as you go through each lesson. Invite group members to bring any questions they have or insights they discover as they go through the content to the next meeting, especially if they were unsure of the meaning of some parts of the lesson. Be prepared to discuss the biblical truth that relates to each topic in the study.

WEEKLY PREPARATION

As the group leader, here are a few things you can do to prepare for each meeting:

- Make sure you understand the content of the lesson so you know how to structure group time and are prepared to lead group discussion.



LEADER'S GUIDE

- Depending on how much time you have each week, you may not be able to reflect on every question. Select specific questions that you feel will evoke the best discussion.
- At the end of your discussion, take prayer requests from your group members and pray for each other.

STRUCTURING THE DISCUSSION TIME

It is up to you to keep track of the time and keep things on schedule. You might want to set a timer for each question that you discuss so both you and the group members know when your time is up.

Don't be concerned if the group members are quiet or slow to share. People are often quiet when they are pulling together their ideas, and this might be a new experience for them. Just ask a question and let it hang in the air until someone shares. You can then say, "Thank you. What about others? What thoughts came to you?"

If you need help in organizing your time when planning your group Bible study, the following schedule, for sixty minutes and ninety minutes, can give you a structure for the lesson:

	60 Minutes	90 Minutes
Welcome: Arrive and get settled	5 minutes	10 minutes
Message: Review the lesson	15 minutes	25 minutes
Discussion: Discuss study questions	35 minutes	45 minutes
Prayer: Pray together and dismiss	5 minutes	10 minutes



LEADER'S GUIDE

GROUP DYNAMICS

Leading a group through **The Jesus Bible Study Series** will prove to be highly rewarding both to you and your group members. But you still may encounter challenges along the way! Discussions can get off track. Group members may not be sensitive to the needs and ideas of others. Some might worry they will be expected to talk about matters that make them feel awkward. Others may express comments that result in disagreements. To help ease this strain on you and the group, consider the following ground rules:

- When someone raises a question or comment that is off the main topic, suggest you deal with it another time, or, if you feel led to go in that direction, let the group know you will be spending some time discussing it.
- If someone asks a question that you don't know how to answer, admit it and move on. At your discretion, feel free to invite group members to comment on questions that call for personal experience.
- If you find one or two people are dominating the discussion time, direct a few questions to others in the group. Outside the main group time, ask the more dominating members to help you draw out the quieter ones. Work to make them a part of the solution instead of the problem.
- When a disagreement occurs, encourage the group members to process the matter in love. Encourage those on opposite sides to restate what they heard the other side say about the matter, and then invite each side to evaluate if that perception is accurate. Lead the group in examining other Scriptures related to the topic and look for common ground.

When any of these issues arise, encourage your group members to follow these words from the Bible: "Love one another" (John 13:34), "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18), "Whatever is true . . . noble . . . right . . . if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Philippians 4:8), and "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19). This will make your group time more rewarding and beneficial for everyone who attends.



Thank you again for your willingness to lead your group. May God reward your efforts and dedication, equip you to guide your group in the weeks ahead, and make your time together in fruitful for his kingdom.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does every participant need a book?

Participants will get the most out of the content if they have their own book. However, they can still participate in the scripture reading and questions without one. Without a workbook, a Bible and journal are suggested.

Can the leader have the book and use it as a guide even if participants don't have a copy?

Absolutely. A leader can use the framework of each lesson, scripture reading and reflection questions to facilitate a Bible study.

Can attendees participate easily in the discussion even if they didn't do the reading?

Yes. Even if you ask students to complete the lesson before the group meets, a participant who did not complete the reading and questions will still be able to join the discussion. We encourage the group to read the main scripture together for context.

Is this series applicable to students?

Themes of identity in Christ and purpose in God's mission will connect with the emerging adult life stage.



BEGINNINGS

BIBLE READING GUIDE

As you complete the weekly lessons, we encourage you to continue reading Scripture throughout the week. Below is a reading plan to go with BEGINNINGS that will help you discover the story of God.

WEEK 1: GENESIS 1

- ☐ Day 1 Genesis 1:1-8
- ☐ Day 2 Genesis 1:9-13
- ☐ Day 3 Genesis 1:14-23
- ☐ Day 4 Genesis 1:24-26
- ☐ Day 5 Genesis 1:27-31

WEEK 2: GENESIS 2

- ☐ Day 1 Genesis 2:1-3
- ☐ Day 2 Genesis 2:4-9
- ☐ Day 3 Genesis 2:10-14
- ☐ Day 4 Genesis 2:15-17
- ☐ Day 5 Genesis 2:18-24

WEEK 3: PSALM 33

- ☐ Day 1 Psalm 33:1-5
- ☐ Day 2 Psalm 33:6-9
- ☐ Day 3 Psalm 33:10-12
- ☐ Day 4 Psalm 33:13-17
- ☐ Day 5 Psalm 33:18-22

WEEK 4: JOB 38-39

- ☐ Day 1 Job 38:1-15
- ☐ Day 2 Job 38:16-24
- ☐ Day 3 Job 38:25-41
- ☐ Day 4 Job 39:1-12
- ☐ Day 5 Job 39:13-30

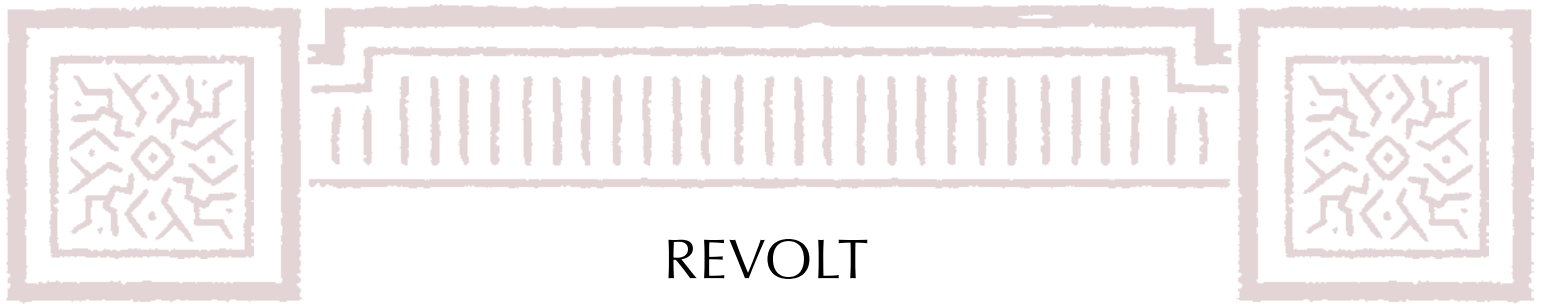
WEEK 5: JOHN 1:1-34

- ☐ Day 1 John 1:1-5
- ☐ Day 2 John 1:6-13
- ☐ Day 3 John 1:14-18
- ☐ Day 4 John 1:19-28
- ☐ Day 5 John 1:29-34

WEEK 6: COLOSSIANS 1

- ☐ Day 1 Colossians 1:1-8
- ☐ Day 2 Colossians 1:9-14
- ☐ Day 3 Colossians 1:15-20
- ☐ Day 4 Colossians 1:21-23
- ☐ Day 5 Colossians 1:24-29

God Has Included You in His Unchanging Story.



REVOLT

BIBLE READING GUIDE

As you complete the weekly lessons, we encourage you to continue reading Scripture throughout the week. Below is a reading plan to go with REVOLT that will help you discover the story of God.

WEEK 1: GENESIS 3

- ☐ Day 1 Genesis 3:1-7
- ☐ Day 2 Genesis 3:8-13
- ☐ Day 3 Genesis 3:14-19
- ☐ Day 4 Genesis 3:20-21
- ☐ Day 5 Genesis 3:22-24

WEEK 2: GENESIS 4

- ☐ Day 1 Genesis 4:1-7
- ☐ Day 2 Genesis 4:8-16
- ☐ Day 3 Genesis 4:17-22
- ☐ Day 4 Genesis 4:23-24
- ☐ Day 5 Genesis 4:25-26

WEEK 3: GENESIS 5 & 6

- ☐ Day 1 Genesis 5:1-11
- ☐ Day 2 Genesis 5:12-24
- ☐ Day 3 Genesis 5:25-32
- ☐ Day 4 Genesis 6:1-8
- ☐ Day 5 Genesis 6:9-22

WEEK 4: GENESIS 7 & 8

- ☐ Day 1 Genesis 7:1-16
- ☐ Day 2 Genesis 7:17-24
- ☐ Day 3 Genesis 8:1-5
- ☐ Day 4 Genesis 8:6-12
- ☐ Day 5 Genesis 8:13-22

WEEK 5: GENESIS 9 & 10

- ☐ Day 1 Genesis 9:1-7
- ☐ Day 2 Genesis 9:8-17
- ☐ Day 3 Genesis 9:18-28
- ☐ Day 4 Genesis 10:1-20
- ☐ Day 5 Genesis 10:21-32

WEEK 6: GENESIS 11

- ☐ Day 1 Genesis 11:1-5
- ☐ Day 2 Genesis 11:6-9
- ☐ Day 3 Genesis 11:10-26
- ☐ Day 4 Genesis 11:27-30
- ☐ Day 5 Genesis 11:31-32

God's Perfect Plan to Rescue Imperfect People.



PEOPLE

BIBLE READING GUIDE

As you complete the weekly lessons, we encourage you to continue reading Scripture throughout the week. Below is a reading plan to go with PEOPLE that will help you discover the story of God.

WEEK 1: 12- 15

- ☐ Day 1 Genesis 12:1-9
- ☐ Day 2 Genesis 12:10-20
- ☐ Day 3 Genesis 13
- ☐ Day 4 Genesis 14
- ☐ Day 5 Genesis 15

WEEK 2: EXODUS 20-24

- ☐ Day 1 Exodus 20
- ☐ Day 2 Exodus 21
- ☐ Day 3 Exodus 22
- ☐ Day 4 Exodus 23
- ☐ Day 5 Exodus 24

WEEK 3: EXODUS 32-33

- ☐ Day 1 Exodus 32:1-20
- ☐ Day 2 Exodus 32:21-35
- ☐ Day 3 Exodus 33:1-6
- ☐ Day 4 Exodus 33:7-11
- ☐ Day 5 Exodus 33:12-23

WEEK 4: JOSHUA 1-6

- ☐ Day 1 Joshua 1
- ☐ Day 2 Joshua 2
- ☐ Day 3 Joshua 3-4
- ☐ Day 4 Joshua 5
- ☐ Day 5 Joshua 6

WEEK 5: JUDGES 1-3

- ☐ Day 1 Judges 1:1-26
- ☐ Day 2 Judges 1:27-36
- ☐ Day 3 Judges 2:1-15
- ☐ Day 4 Judges 2:16-3:6
- ☐ Day 5 Judges 3:7-30

WEEK 6: MALACHI

- ☐ Day 1 Malachi 1
- ☐ Day 2 Malachi 2:1-9
- ☐ Day 3 Malachi 2:10-16
- ☐ Day 4 Malachi 2:17-3:18
- ☐ Day 5 Malachi 4

When God's People Break Their Word, God Keeps His Promise.



SAVIOR

BIBLE READING GUIDE

As you complete the weekly lessons, we encourage you to continue reading Scripture throughout the week. Below is a reading plan to go with SAVIOR that will help you discover the story of God.

WEEK 1: MARK 1-3

- ☐ Day 1 Mark 1:1-20
- ☐ Day 2 Mark 1:21-45
- ☐ Day 3 Mark 2:1-17
- ☐ Day 4 Mark 2:18-28
- ☐ Day 5 Mark 3

WEEK 2: MARK 4-6

- ☐ Day 1 Mark 4
- ☐ Day 2 Mark 5:1-20
- ☐ Day 3 Mark 5:21-43
- ☐ Day 4 Mark 6:1-29
- ☐ Day 5 Mark 6:30-56

WEEK 3: MARK 7-9

- ☐ Day 1 Mark 7
- ☐ Day 2 Mark 8:1-30
- ☐ Day 3 Mark 8:31-9:13
- ☐ Day 4 Mark 9:14-37
- ☐ Day 5 Mark 9:38-49

WEEK 4: MARK 10-12

- ☐ Day 1 Mark 10:1-31
- ☐ Day 2 Mark 10:32-52
- ☐ Day 3 Mark 11
- ☐ Day 4 Mark 12:1-17
- ☐ Day 5 Mark 12:18-44

WEEK 5: MARK 13-14

- ☐ Day 1 Mark 13:1-23
- ☐ Day 2 Mark 13:24-36
- ☐ Day 3 Mark 14:1-25
- ☐ Day 4 Mark 14:26-50
- ☐ Day 5 Mark 14:51-72

WEEK 6: MARK 15-16

- ☐ Day 1 Mark 15:1-15
- ☐ Day 2 Mark 15:16-32
- ☐ Day 3 Mark 15:33-47
- ☐ Day 4 Mark 16:1-8
- ☐ Day 5 Mark 16:9-19

When God's People Needed Rescue, God Came to Them in Flesh.



CHURCH

BIBLE READING GUIDE

As you complete the weekly lessons, we encourage you to continue reading Scripture throughout the week. Below is a reading plan to go with CHURCH that will help you discover the story of God.

WEEK 1: ACTS 1-5

- ☐ Day 1 Acts 1
- ☐ Day 2 Acts 2
- ☐ Day 3 Acts 3
- ☐ Day 4 Acts 4
- ☐ Day 5 Acts 5

WEEK 2: ACTS 6-10

- ☐ Day 1 Acts 6
- ☐ Day 2 Acts 7
- ☐ Day 3 Acts 8
- ☐ Day 4 Acts 9
- ☐ Day 5 Acts 10

WEEK 3: ACTS 11-15

- ☐ Day 1 Acts 11
- ☐ Day 2 Acts 12
- ☐ Day 3 Acts 13
- ☐ Day 4 Acts 14
- ☐ Day 5 Acts 15

WEEK 4: ACTS 16-20

- ☐ Day 1 Acts 16
- ☐ Day 2 Acts 17
- ☐ Day 3 Acts 18
- ☐ Day 4 Acts 19
- ☐ Day 5 Acts 20

WEEK 5: ACTS 21-24

- ☐ Day 1 Acts 21:1-36
- ☐ Day 2 Acts 21:37-22:29
- ☐ Day 3 Acts 22:30-23:11
- ☐ Day 4 Acts 23:12-35
- ☐ Day 5 Acts 24

WEEK 6: ACTS 25-28

- ☐ Day 1 Acts 25
- ☐ Day 2 Acts 26
- ☐ Day 3 Acts 27
- ☐ Day 4 Acts 28:1-16
- ☐ Day 5 Acts 28:17-30

God's Plan to Reach the World.



FOREVER

BIBLE READING GUIDE

As you complete the weekly lessons, we encourage you to continue reading Scripture throughout the week. Below is a reading plan to go with FOREVER that will help you discover the story of God.

WEEK 1: REVELATION 1-4

- ☐ Day 1 Revelation 1
- ☐ Day 2 Revelation 2:1-11
- ☐ Day 3 Revelation 2:12-29
- ☐ Day 4 Revelation 3
- ☐ Day 5 Revelation 4

WEEK 4: REVELATION 12-16

- ☐ Day 1 Revelation 12
- ☐ Day 2 Revelation 13
- ☐ Day 3 Revelation 14
- ☐ Day 4 Revelation 15
- ☐ Day 5 Revelation 16

WEEK 2: REVELATION 5-7

- ☐ Day 1 Revelation 5:1-10
- ☐ Day 2 Revelation 5:11-14
- ☐ Day 3 Revelation 6
- ☐ Day 4 Revelation 7:1-8
- ☐ Day 5 Revelation 7:9-17

WEEK 5: REVELATION 17-19

- ☐ Day 1 Revelation 17
- ☐ Day 2 Revelation 18:1-10
- ☐ Day 3 Revelation 18:11-24
- ☐ Day 4 Revelation 19:1-10
- ☐ Day 5 Revelation 19:11-21

WEEK 3: REVELATION 8-11

- ☐ Day 1 Revelation 8
- ☐ Day 2 Revelation 9
- ☐ Day 3 Revelation 10
- ☐ Day 4 Revelation 11:1-14
- ☐ Day 5 Revelation 11:15-19

WEEK 6: REVELATION 20-22

- ☐ Day 1 Revelation 20:1-6
- ☐ Day 2 Revelation 20:7-15
- ☐ Day 3 Revelation 21:1-8
- ☐ Day 4 Revelation 21:9-27
- ☐ Day 5 Revelation 22

You Were Made to be with God Forever.



The Jesus Bible STUDY SERIES

The Jesus Bible Study Series from the Passion Movement dives deep into Scripture, reveals how Jesus plays a key role in each and every story told throughout the Bible, and helps you discover God's purpose and plan for your life in his great story. Each study in this series features one of six key "acts" of Scripture: (1) **Beginnings**, (2) **Revolt**, (3) **People**, (4) **Savior**, (5) **Church**, (6) **Forever**.

Jesus is as visible on the first page of Genesis as he is on the last page in Revelation—as present in the Garden of Eden as he is in the garden tomb and the new heavens and new earth. As readers follow this thread, they will discover a new depth to the Bible's meaning as they come to discover Christ in every chapter of the story.



All six volumes are available now
Shop The Jesus Bible Study Series

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/45jIm2d