



BEHOLD YOUR GOD

— a study of the top ten chapters in the Bible —

INTRO

For seventy years atheistic communism had persecuted Christianity, murdered millions of people, closed thousands of churches and made it a risk to even own a Bible in the USSR. The Soviet people were desperate to learn about God and His word.

When the Iron Curtain fell, an unprecedented mobilizing of missionaries to this needy region began. The most expansive movement was known as the CoMission. The Navigators was one of eighty ministries cooperatively working as the CoMission to train and send missionaries to the former Soviet Union.

The Top 10 chapters chosen for this study come from a list of the Top 40, as chosen by leaders of the CoMission seeking to bring the gospel to these people.

THE TOP 40 .

Genesis 1 & 2	Proverbs 6	Romans 5	Ephesians 6
Genesis 3	Matthew 5	Romans 6	Philippians 2
Genesis 12	Matthew 26-28	Romans 7	James 1
Genesis 22	John 1	Romans 8	James 2
Isaiah 2	John 4	Romans 12	James 3
Isaiah 6	John 13	Ephesians 1	James 4
Isaiah 40	John 14	Ephesians 2	James 5
Isaiah 53	John 15	Ephesians 3	Revelation 4
Psalms 23	John 17	Ephesians 4	Revelation 5
Psalms 139	Romans 1	Ephesians 5	Revelation 22

*The shaded boxes are a part of the Top 10 study

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OVERVIEW

For each of the first five weeks you'll be given a study skill to use with the given segment of study. These skills are designed to help you learn how to study the Bible. The skills do build on one another and can be used each week after you learn it. The more you practice and use a skill the more you'll discover in the study.

Each week, you'll be asked to complete an ABC study chart. These charts are especially helpful in helping you synthesize the study and glean from its principles.

Hopefully you will diligently study the Scriptures this semester!

We want to start our study mindful; however, of Jesus' rebuke of the Pharisees in John 5. He said, "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that in them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."

The purpose for this study is to encounter Jesus, to find life in him..to "Behold your God" (Isaiah 40:9)

EXPECTATIONS

This study will be most helpful if you:

- Pray and ask God to help you understand the Scriptures
- Complete the study each week
- Make discussion a priority and attend every week
- Share honestly and pursue friendships within the group
- Memorize two Bible verses each week

GENESIS 2-3

5 When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, 6 and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. 8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. 14 And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” 19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” 11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

14 The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
 cursed are you above all livestock
 and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
 and you shall bruise his heel.”

16 To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
 in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
 and he shall rule over you.”

17 And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
 and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
 ‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
 in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
 and you shall eat the plants of the field.
19 By the sweat of your face
 you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
 for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
 and to dust you shall return.”

20 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21 And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

22 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

STUDY SKILL /// PARAGRAPH TITLES

Give each paragraph a title in the left hand column. Try to use words from the text to make a 2-3 word summary title. The goal is to capture the main thought from each paragraph so you can see correlations in the text. For example, paragraph one could be titled “God Forms Man”.

ABC Bible Study

Each week you'll complete the following ABC method in addition to a study skill. The ABC method is a succinct way to synthesize and summarize the passage. Give it a try.

- **A- A Title**

Jot down two or three titles that come to mind as you study, then select the best one or make a composite of them. The title should give the summary of the chapter in the form of a heading.

- **B- Basic Passage**

Choose the verse or group of verses (no more than three) which includes the central meaning or is the key to the contents of the passage. This passage should connect with the title.

- **C- Challenge**

As you study the passage ask God to challenge your heart in a personal way from a particular portion of the chapter. As God reveals this to you write out in your own words the corresponding verse(s) from which you are taking your challenge. Then write out how the challenge applies to you and state what you plan to do about it. Make your applications specific (What exactly do I need to do?), measurable (How will I know when I have applied this to my life?), and attainable (Can I finish it this week?).

Examples: Bad: I need to be more loving.

Good: I will show love to my roommate by making his bed all week.

Types of Application:

S- Is there a **sin** I need to avoid, confess or make right?

P- Is there a **promise** God makes in this passage that I can trust Him for?

E- What **emotions** are stirred up in this passage? How might God ask you to engage them?

A- Is there an **action** to take?

K- What **Kingdom Character** trait, evident in this passage, needs to grow in your life?

- **D- Difficulties**

Write down the number of the verse or verses that raise any questions in your mind as you study the passage. Then write out what specific question(s) you have about the verse. If time permits research the answer(s) to some of these questions.

- **E- Essence**

Write out a summary or brief condensation of the passage. Summarize all parts of the passage equally not giving too much space to one part. One way to do this is to write one sentence in a rough draft for each successive thought in the passage, using your own words instead of the words of the text. Then condense your summary into fewer words, combining your sentences and making them shorter. You should average two to eight words per verse.

Date: _____

Study Passage: _____

A A Title: _____

B Basic Passage : _____

C Challenge: _____

Which verse challenges you most? _____

In what way are you challenged?

What do you need to do about this challenge?

D Difficulties:

VERSE	QUESTIONS

E Essence:(summary)

GENESIS 12:1-9

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, 6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. 9 And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

STUDY SKILL /// CONTEXT AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The histories and teachings of the Bible occur as a part of the larger story of Scripture. Context and Cross-References help you frame the text you're studying in light of the bigger picture of the Bible.

Context: This is the central concept in deciphering what a Bible text means. To fully understand the author's intended meaning, we must consider the event, statement or idea being studied in its proper setting. What do the surrounding sentences say? The paragraph? Chapter? Book? And even the Bible as a whole?

Cross-References: This is the practice of finding and considering similar passages to the one being studied. We want to use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Many of your Bibles probably have a cross-reference column. This is a great place to start. Superscript letters are placed near words or phrases that link to similar passages throughout the Bible. The superscript letters refer to a center column that lists the verses you should look up.

See the next page for some exercises using these skills.

Don't forget last week's skill: Give each paragraph a title in the left hand column.

Start at Genesis 1 and read the section headings given in your Bible leading up to Genesis 12.
Summarize the CONTEXT leading into Genesis 12.

Now read and summarize the headings after chapter 12.

12-20:

21-26:

27-36:

37-46:

47-50:

How does Genesis 12 seem to fit the book of Genesis?

Look up the following CROSS REFERENCES. And make observations about what God wants to communicate through his promise to Abraham.

Internal Cross-References (within the book of Genesis)

Genesis 15:1-6

Genesis 26:1-5

Genesis 28:10-17

External Cross-References (from another portion of Scripture)

Galatians 3:1-9

Hebrews 6:13-20

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Examples: Bad: I need to be more loving.

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Types of Application:

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Date: _____

Study Passage: _____

A A Title: _____

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C Challenge: _____

Which verse challenges you most? _____

In what way are you challenged?

What do you need to do about this challenge?

D Difficulties:

VERSE	QUESTIONS

E Essence:(summary)

PSALM 139

1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
3 You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
4 Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.
5 You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

7 Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
9 If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
10 even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.
11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

13 For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
15 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.

19 Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!
O men of blood, depart from me!
20 They speak against you with malicious intent;
your enemies take your name in vain.
21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
22 I hate them with complete hatred;
I count them my enemies.

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
24 And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

STUDY SKILL /// OBSERVATIONS

Observations are the key to good Bible study. You must see right in order to know and do right. Spend time on this step and push yourself to look intently into the Word. Use the chart below to look at the passage from different angles.

Keep giving paragraph titles in the left hand column. Can you find any Cross-References?

About God:	
About Me:	
About our Relationship:	
General/Other Observations:	

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C Challenge: _____

Which verse challenges you most? _____

In what way are you challenged?

What do you need to do about this challenge?

D Difficulties:

VERSE	QUESTIONS

E Essence:(summary)

ISAIAH 40

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

6 A voice says, "Cry!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
7 The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 Go on up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Behold your God!"
10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure
and weighed the mountains in scales
and the hills in a balance?
13 Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD,
or what man shows him his counsel?
14 Whom did he consult,
and who made him understand?
Who taught him the path of justice,
and taught him knowledge,
and showed him the way of understanding?
15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
and are accounted as the dust on the scales;
behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.
16 Lebanon would not suffice for fuel,
nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.
17 All the nations are as nothing before him,
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and
emptiness.

18 To whom then will you liken God,
or what likeness compare with him?
19 An idol! A craftsman casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
and casts for it silver chains.
20 He who is too impoverished for an offering
chooses wood that will not rot;
he seeks out a skillful craftsman
to set up an idol that will not move.

21 Do you not know? Do you not hear?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the
earth?
22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;
23 who brings princes to nothing,
and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows on them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

25 To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?
He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name,
by the greatness of his might,
and because he is strong in power
not one is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
29 He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
30 Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

STUDY SKILL /// BIG IDEA

Authors write with intention, typically conveying one main thought, supported by many explanatory truths. The Big Idea is a word or phrase from the passage that describes the whole unit of study AND can be related to a key concept in each paragraph.

For example, the phrase “Behold your God” in verse 9 captures the general intention of the chapter. Isn’t it a chapter describing what God is like! There are probably a few possible choices for a Big Idea phrase, but let’s choose this as the Big Idea. Box this phrase in verse 9.

Now, consider how this phrase is related to a key theme in each paragraph. Your paragraph titles can come in handy now. For instance, the first paragraph may be rightly titled “Comfort my people”. Draw a line from the box in verse 9 to this phrase in verse 1. “Behold your God...who comforts his people”

In paragraph two, the connection could be “Behold your God...whose glory will be revealed” (verse 5)

Try making a connection to each paragraph.

List your Big Idea connections below:

- Behold your God...who comforts his people
- Behold your God...whose glory will be revealed

As you “Behold your God” what things stick out to you?

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VERSE	QUESTIONS

E Essence:(summary)

ISAIAH 53

1 Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?

9 And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

STUDY SKILL /// MARKING THE TEXT

Visually marking the text assists you in “seeing” what the author is talking about. For instance, highlighting a repeated word in the same color or circling each use of God, draws attention to the purposefully repetitive content.

Marking the text loses its effectiveness when overdone. Therefore, a key to this skill is only marking a few major things.

Isaiah 53 is a brutally amazing depiction of Jesus...700 years before Jesus walked the earth. Complete the following steps to mark the text for further insight into this prophetic vision.

Underline with your pen all the verbs.

- What is the tone of this passage?

Highlight in RED the names, descriptions and characteristics of Jesus (hint: look for “he” and “him”).

- How does this describe how Jesus looked?

- What do the names reveal about Jesus?

- What observations do you have about what he endured?

Highlight in YELLOW our descriptions (look for “we”, “our”, “their”, etc).

- What do we “bring” to this passage?

- What are we offered?

- What is your response to this exchange?

ABC Bible Study

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Examples: Bad: I need to be more loving.

Good: I will show love to my roommate by making his bed all week.

Types of Application:

S- Is there a **sin** I need to avoid, confess or make right?

P- Is there a **promise** God makes in this passage that I can trust Him for?

E- What **emotions** are stirred up in this passage? How might God ask you to engage them?

A- Is there an **action** to take?

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- **D- Difficulties**

Write down the number of the verse or verses that raise any questions in your mind as you study the passage. Then write out what specific question(s) you have about the verse. If time permits research the answer(s) to some of these questions.

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Study Passage: _____

A A Title: _____

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C Challenge: _____

Which verse challenges you most? _____

In what way are you challenged?

What do you need to do about this challenge?

D Difficulties:

VERSE	QUESTIONS

E Essence:(summary)

MATTHEW 5

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

STUDY SKILL /// REVIEW

As you enter the second half of the study, put to use the skills gained during the first five weeks. You can pick a few to complete (or do them all).

- Paragraph Titles
- Context and Cross-References
- Observations
- Big Idea
- Marking the Text

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In what way are you challenged?

What do you need to do about this challenge?

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VERSE	QUESTIONS

E Essence:(summary)

MATTHEW 28

1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

11 While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. 12 And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers 13 and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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Pick a few skills to complete (or do them all).

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E Essence:(summary)

ROMANS 6-8

6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

7:1 Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? 2 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. 3 Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. 5 For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. 6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." 8 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. 9 I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. 10 The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. 11 For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. 12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

13 Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. 15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

STUDY SKILL /// REVIEW

Pick a few skills to complete (or do them all).

- Paragraph Titles (*recommended, to capture the flow of Paul's argument. What is he saying here?*)
- Context and Cross-References
- Observations
- Big Idea
- Marking the Text (*one thing to look for are transition and summary statements, i.e. "therefore"*)

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E Essence:(summary)

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

STUDY SKILL /// REVIEW

Pick a few skills to complete (or do them all).

- Paragraph Titles
- Context and Cross-References
- Observations
- Big Idea
- Marking the Text

Turn back in your study if you need a refresher on these skills. Use the space below for notes and observations.

ABC Bible Study

Each week you'll complete the following ABC method in addition to a study skill. The ABC method is a succinct way to synthesize and summarize the passage. Give it a try.

A- A Title

Jot down two or three titles that come to mind as you study, then select the best one or make a composite of them. The title should give the summary of the chapter in the form of a heading.

B- Basic Passage

Choose the verse or group of verses (no more than three) which includes the central meaning or is the key to the contents of the passage. This passage should connect with the title.

C- Challenge

As you study the passage ask God to challenge your heart in a personal way from a particular portion of the chapter. As God reveals this to you write out in your own words the corresponding verse(s) from which you are taking your challenge. Then write out how the challenge applies to you and state what you plan to do about it. Make your applications specific (What exactly do I need to do?), measurable (How will I know when I have applied this to my life?), and attainable (Can I finish it this week?).

Examples: Bad: I need to be more loving.

Good: I will show love to my roommate by making his bed all week.

Types of Application:

S- Is there a **sin** I need to avoid, confess or make right?

P- Is there a **promise** God makes in this passage that I can trust Him for?

E- What **emotions** are stirred up in this passage? How might God ask you to engage them?

A- Is there an **action** to take?

K- What **Kingdom Character** trait, evident in this passage, needs to grow in your life?

D- Difficulties

Write down the number of the verse or verses that raise any questions in your mind as you study the passage. Then write out what specific question(s) you have about the verse. If time permits research the answer(s) to some of these questions.

E- Essence

Write out a summary or brief condensation of the passage. Summarize all parts of the passage equally not giving too much space to one part. One way to do this is to write one sentence in a rough draft for each successive thought in the passage, using your own words instead of the words of the text. Then condense your summary into fewer words, combining your sentences and making them shorter. You should average two to eight words per verse.

Date: _____

Study Passage: _____

A A Title: _____

B Basic Passage : _____

C Challenge: _____

Which verse challenges you most? _____

In what way are you challenged?

What do you need to do about this challenge?

D Difficulties:

VERSE	QUESTIONS

E Essence:(summary)

REVELATION 5

1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."

11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!"

13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

14 And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

STUDY SKILL /// REVIEW

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E Essence:(summary)

RECAP

