



**Bible Readings for Students**

**(Grades 7-12)**

*Jesus said to the people who believed in him, You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

**John 8:31-32**

**WEEK 1 October 7-13**

**WEEK 2 October 14-20**

**WEEK 3 October 21-27**

**Week 4 October 28-November 3**

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**My Gift to You**



This journal is my gift to you to help you grow. As a Christian, I can think of nothing more exciting than watching students’ lives change as they grow closer to God. These **BreakOUTS** will help you develop some of the **FAITH SKILLS** necessary for spiritual growth by encouraging you to have a consistent Quiet Time.

**Why a Quiet Time?**

Our world is noisy and busy and time with God can be easily passed over. A **quiet time** is where you take some time out of your day and make an appointment to connect with God. Even Jesus took this time— *Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed* (Luke 5:16). The bottom line is that you can’t be a healthy Christian without time with God. When you spend time with God…

* you will fall in love with him more
* receive direction for daily living
* have his strength to keep going
* grow to be more like Jesus

**Why is there a memory verse listed on each page for me to write out?**

Here are some of the benefits of memorizing Bible Verses:

* helps you resist temptation
* helps me make wise decisions
* strengthens me when I’m under stress
* encourages me when I’m sad
* helps me share with unbelievers

Considering these benefits, we think it is a worthy and achievable goal to try to memorize at least one verse a month and possibly one verse a week. The verse is chosen from one of the readings. Writing it out on each page from your version of the Bible should help you memorize it along with other things you do to memorize stuff. We encourage you to choose other verses on your own to memorize as you are able.

Desiring God’s best for you,

 The  **H.E.A.R**. journaling method can help you read the Bible in order to understand and respond to God’s Word. **H.E.A.R**. stands for **Highlight, Explain, Apply, and Respond**. Each of these four steps are important in hearing God speak to us through his Word.

It is pretty simple. After praying for the Holy Spirit’s guidance, Consider **Step #1** the lettter **H**. This exercise will remind you to read with a purpose. In the course of your reading, one or two verses will usually stand out and speak to you. After reading the passage of Scripture, **Highlight** at least one verse that speaks to you. *Write down the reference or even the verse(s).*

After you have highlighted the passage, move to **Step #2** the letter “**E**”. At this stage you will **EXPLAIN** what the text means. By asking some simple questions, with the help of God’s Spirit, you can understand the meaning of a passage or verse. A good study Bible can be helpful with this step. Ask questions like: *who was it written to and what did it mean to them? What are some differences between the original audience and us? How does it fit with the verses before and after it? How would you summarize what it says in your own words?*At this point, you are beginning the process of discovering the specific and personal word that God has for you from His Word. What is important is that you are engaging the passage and wrestling with its meaning.

After writing a short summary of what you think the text means, look at **Step #3** the letter “**A**” which is for **Apply**. This application is the heart of the process. Everything you have done so far leads to this step. As you have done before, answer a series of questions to uncover the significance of these verses to you personally, questions like: *what is the principle in the verse(s) that is for you? Is there a command to obey? A sin to avoid? A promise to claim? Is there something new to learn about God, myself or others?* These questions bridge the gap between the ancient world and your world today. They provide a way for God to speak to you from the specific passage or verse.

Finally, focus on **Step #4** the letter “**R**” for **Respond**. *Your response to the passage may take on many forms. You may write a specific action. You may describe how you will be different because of what God has said to you through His Word. You may indicate what you are going to do because of what you have learned. You may respond by writing out a prayer to God.* For example, you may ask God to help you to be more loving, or to give you a desire to be more generous in your giving. Keep in mind that this

***Don’ be intimidated if reading the Bible is new or challenging to you****. The BreakOUTS are designed to help you learn how to do it. Start by reading the suggested verses and just doing Step #1 until you get used to having a Quiet Time. When you are ready add Step #2…and then Step #3…and then Step #4. And if reading a few verses isn’t enough, also do the Extra Reading. Learning these skills could take you a few weeks, a few months or even a couple of years. The most important thing is that you get started and keep working at it. If you drop off and don’t do it for awhile, don’t give up. Just start back up the next day. Remember it is about a relationship with God not checking off something on a list. And we are here to help you take the next steps because we know that engaging God’s Word on your own will change your life!*

**DAY 1** ACTS 10:9-16 **EXTRA READING** ACTS 10:1-23

**WEEK 1**

God was being very creative here. This was a turning point for Peter and for Christianity. Peter as he followed the Law knew there were some things he could and couldn’t eat. The same was true with people; some were considered to be God’s people and some were not. The Jews were God’s people and everyone else wasn’t. So God gives Peter a dream that started with something less important (food) that represented something more important (people) to help Peter understand that the gospel was a message of good news for the whole world. God loves all people- not just the Jews- and God wants all of them to be his people.

\*As you invite God into your day, thank God that he loves all people including you and not just a chosen few. Ask God to help you search your heart and answer this question: Is there any place in your life where you believe some people are more important than others? Ask God to help you see people the way he does.

**H**IGHLIGHT verses…choose at least one verse that speaks to you. Write down the reference or even the verse(s).

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 **R**ESPOND …write down a prayer or an action as a result of what you have just learned. Be specific and follow through.

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**MEMORY VERSE** MATHEW 28:18(WRITE IT OUT) **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**DAY 2** ACTS 10:27-34 **EXTRA READING** ACTS 10:24-48

**WEEK 1**

Can you believe people once thought the earth was flat? Or that the earth was the center of the universe? Imagine how shocking it was for people who believed that all their life when they found out it wasn’t true. I imagine it was similar for Peter and the Jews when they found out God loved them but he also loved the Gentiles (non-Jews). Israel was God’s chosen people but God was opening the door for the whole world to know him through Jesus. Beginning with Peter through a specific vison there is an evangelism explosion that moves outside of Israel and begins to move around the world and even continues to this day. God’s desire is for all people to hear his gospel and experience salvation.

\*As you start your day with God, take time to slow down and read, think about and work at memorizing Matthew 28:18. Find comfort in the fact that our responsibility to share our faith with everyone has been given to us by Jesus who has all authority. We represent the King!

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**DAY 3** ACTS 11:1-4 **EXTRA READING** ACTS 11:1-18

**WEEK 1**

I am amazed at how fast babies grow. You see them one month and they are small and helpless. Then just a few months later, they are walking, talking and taking over the world (or at least the living room!). Amazing. Here in Acts 11 we see the church growing and multiplying as the gospel moves into new areas. It is overcoming, geography, prejudice, racism and religious and secular opposition. This is what God desires for his kingdom- to be continually expanding and bringing more people to faith in Christ. At North Park we say it this way- *we exist to multiply and mature followers of Jesus*. We want to see more people become Christians and we want more Christians to become better followers of Jesus.

\*The same Holy Spirit who empowered this expansion is continuing to work today. Many of the challenges the early church faced still exist today. As you open your heart to God today, pray that God would tear down these barriers for us and that he would help North Park to be a church of disciples that make more disciples as people come to know Christ.

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**DAY 4** ACTS 10:19-21 **EXTRA READING** ACTS 11:19-30

**WEEK 1**

Names and places might not always seem that important when we read our Bible but they are recorded for a reason. Antioch was not in Israel but was in Syria. It was filled with Gentiles (non-Jews) and the gospel was spreading past the borders of Israel quickly. All of a sudden the church was becoming incredibly diverse. There were all kinds of people coming into it. And once it became big enough to be well known, people gave it a name you and I now share with these early followers of Christ: *Christians*.

\*As we consider our motivation for sharing our faith so others can come to know Christ, take a moment to reflect on our God’s grace in your life. [Watch or listen to](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIyjsLlevwY) the song *Found in You* on line by Vertical Church to draw our hearts back to the centrality of Christ in our lives.

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**DAY 5** MATTHEW 28:18-20 **EXTRA READING** MATTHEW 28:16-20

**WEEK 1**

 ACTS 1:-11

The website *Got Questions?* Says the following about the what we call the Great Commission from Matthew 28:19-20: Jesus gave this command to the apostles shortly before He [ascended into heaven](https://www.gotquestions.org/ascension-Jesus-Christ.html), and it essentially outlines what Jesus expected the apostles and those who followed them to do when he was gone. It is interesting that, in the original Greek, the only direct command in [Matthew 28:19–20](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2028.19%E2%80%9320) is “make disciples.” We call this the Great Commission and it instructs us to make disciples while we are going throughout the world. The instructions to “go,” “baptize,” and “teach” are indirect commands. How are we to make disciples? By baptizing them and teaching them all that Jesus commanded. “[Make disciples](https://www.gotquestions.org/making-disciples.html)” is the primary command of the Great Commission. “Going,” “baptizing,” and “teaching” are the means by which we fulfill the command to “make disciples”.

\*Today, as you invite God into your day, pray and ask God to help our church be a church that helps more people come to know Jesus and helps more people become more like Jesus. We want to “make disciples who make disciples”.

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**Prayer: Thank Yous and Requests**

*And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

*You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*

**John 14:13-14**

Use this page to record prayers of thanks to God for who He is, lessons he is teaching you and answers to specific prayers. Also use it to list needs you have and things you are asking God to help you or others with.