

Day 1

Faith Fact

The Bible is my guide.

Faith Verse

Psalm 119:11 (NLT)

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Question of the Day: What is the Bible?

Read about It

Read: Psalm 119:11, 105; John 1:1; 15:7; 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Reading the Bible is like taking a trip with a really cool map. Most maps point out things like mountains, rivers, lakes, and roads. You can even buy cool maps that show you all the flags, or where all the Major League Baseball stadiums are. Some maps are 3D and buildings pop up on them. Maps can be used to help you get to places. It shows you where a road will take you or how to get to the beach. Maps are good at helping you not to get lost.

The Bible works in the same way—it helps us to not get lost. Unlike a map where some roads take you to the right place and some don't, every part of the Bible points us the right way—toward Jesus. It helps guide us, helps us get back on track when we make a wrong turn, and always leads us back to Jesus. He's been there from the very beginning. As you read the Bible, you'll learn more about Him, about God's plan for your life, and about how much He loves you. We can even take it a step further and start to memorize some verses to help us keep from getting lost. God gave us the Bible as road map in life that leads us straight to Him. Take some time to look at these Bible verses and see if you can find the answer to these questions.

Think about It

Question 1. What does it mean to "remain" in Jesus, and what promise does He give us if we remain in Him and His Word?

Answer 1. Remaining in Jesus means to stay close to Him and live the way the Bible tell us to. If we do this, we begin to want the kinds of things Jesus wants. So, when people who are really close to Jesus ask for something they want, He can give it to them. (John 15:7)

Question 2. What does it mean to be "inspired," who is the Bible inspired by, and what does it help us do?

Answer 2. To be inspired means you have a thought or idea that came from another source. God inspired men to write the Bible by speaking to their hearts through the Holy Spirit. The Bible helps us know what is true and what is wrong in our lives. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

*Question 3. Why is it important to memorize Bible verses?

Answer 3. When we memorize Bible verses, it helps us remember them and obey them every day. Psalm 119:11 (NLT) says, "I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

*Question 4. What is the Bible?

Answer 4. The Bible is the inspired Word of God and is His revelation to all people of Himself and His plan of salvation.

*Question 5. Has Jesus always been God?

Answer 5. Yes! In some places in the Bible, Jesus is called the Word, like at the beginning of the Gospel of John. "In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

Talk about It

- What did you learn in today's devotion?
- What's your favorite part of the Bible?
- What is one verse you can memorize?
- Decide to pick a family verse that could be your theme verse for the rest of the year.

Pray about It

God, thank You for giving the Bible as a road map for my life. I won't always understand what I'm reading and will need Your help. Help me want to learn more about You and help me to find Jesus in the Bible. Amen.

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Day 2

Faith Fact

The Bible is my guide.

Faith Verse

Psalm 119:11 (NLT)

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Question of the Day: What kinds of things are in the Bible?

Read about It

Read: Joshua 1:8; Proverbs 2:1–6; Luke 24:44; Romans 15:4; Hebrews 4:12

Have you ever looked under the hood of a car? From the outside the car looks like one big machine. You can see the wheels and doors and windows, but the rest looks like one big thing. When you lift up the hood, you can see there are lots of things working together. There are hoses and filters. Oil and fluid that makes the engine run. We can't forget the gasoline, because without gas the car would never move. Without all these things, a car isn't really a car.

The Bible is one book, made up of a lot of other books. Each book plays an important part in the story God is telling us. Some books tell us about faraway lands and interesting people. Some pull us into the amazing life Jesus lived on earth. Others have songs and poetry. And some even tell us about what will happen in the future! The more we learn about the different parts of the Bible, the more it teaches us about who God is and about His character. It teaches us about His love, power, faithfulness, and the promises He has given to us as His children. In today's verses, we can see how important it is to know the Bible and read God's Word. As you read these Bible verses and look in your Bible, answer these guestions.

Think about It

Question 1. According to Joshua 1:8, what promise does God give us if we follow His commands?

Answer 1. We will prosper and succeed in all that we do. (Joshua 1:8)

*Question 2. How many books are there in the Bible?

Answer 2. Sixty-six (66)

*Question 3. What are the two divisions of the Bible?

Answer 3. Old Testament and New Testament

Question 4. What does Hebrews 4:12 tell us about the Word of God?

Answer 4. It is alive, powerful, sharp, and exposes our thoughts and desires. (Hebrews 4:12)

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Question 5. According to Romans 15:4, what do the Scriptures give us while we are waiting for God's promises?

Answer 5. Hope and encouragement (Romans 15:4)

Talk about It

- What is something new you heard in today's devotion?
- What are some interesting things you learned about the Bible today?
- What questions do you have about the Bible?
- What is one thing about the Bible you would like to learn more about?

Pray about It

God, Your words are so powerful! I can't wait to learn more about You. Help me to learn Your truth and follow Your commands. Thank You for the gift of the Bible. Help it to be a source of hope and encouragement to my life. Amen.

Day 3

Faith Fact

The Bible is my guide.

Faith Verse

Psalm 119:11 (NLT)

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Question of the Day: How can I find Jesus in Scripture?

Read about It

Read: Luke 24:13-34

If you've ever played Hide and Seek, you know that the game has a pretty clear goal. One person closes their eyes and counts. The others run to find places to hide. As soon as you hear the person with closed eyes say, "Ready or not, here I come," you know they are on their way. The hiders have the easy job; they just sit and wait to be found.

The seeker has a much harder job. They have to search for the people hiding. The hardest part of being the seeker is you don't know where the others could be hiding, and they could be anywhere. They could be hiding under the bed, in a closet, on top of a shelf, or maybe behind the shower curtain in the bathroom. It could take five minutes to find everyone or it could take hours. Sometimes the seeker might even give up all together if the hiders are really good at hiding. Being the seeker is only fun if you can find the people hiding.

One of the most fun parts about reading the Bible is that it talks about Jesus in some way all throughout the Bible—you just have to look for Him. The good news for us is that He isn't hiding. The more we read the Bible, the easier it becomes to find Jesus. As we read about His life, the prophecies that said He was coming, or the promises of His return, it gets a little easier to see Jesus in the verses. From the very first chapter of the Bible to the last page of it, we can find Jesus. The question isn't "Is He there?" The question is "Are you looking for Him?" Look at today's Bible reading and notice how some people missed Him. See if you can find the answers to today's questions.

Think about It

Question 1. In Luke 24:13, where were Jesus' followers walking to? **Answer 1.** The village of Emmaus (Luke 24:13)

Question 2. What did the women tell them had happened to Jesus? **Answer 2.** That His body was missing from the tomb. The angel had told them that Jesus was alive. (Luke 24:22–23)

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Question 3. How did Jesus explain to them what the prophecies had said about Him? **Answer 3.** He explained to them the writings of Moses and the prophets. (Luke 24:27)

Question 4. What did they ask Jesus to do when they got to Emmaus? **Answer 4.** They asked Him to stay with them. (Luke 24:28–30)

Question 5. How did they know it was Jesus? **Answer 5.** God opened their eyes and enabled them to recognize Him. (Luke 24:31)

Talk about It

- What is something new you heard in today's devotion?
- How can you help others see Jesus in every part of the Bible just like Jesus did for His followers?

Pray about It

God, help me to keep my eyes open to see Jesus as I read Your Word. I don't ever want to miss seeing Him in any part of the Bible. As I read, would You help me to find Him? Show me how Your words point to Him so I can know everything the Bible has to tell me about Jesus. Amen.