

# JUMP START



## Lesson 1: Words

**God has given us His Words in the Bible to strengthen our relationship with Him.**

*The Word of God is alive and powerful.  
— Hebrews 4:12a*



**EYES ON THE ROAD:** Watch the video.

### START YOUR ENGINE

Ninety-two percent of Americans own one. The average household has three. It's the best selling book of all times. We still hold the Bible in high regard, yet have a difficult time reading it. Why?



### CHARGE YOUR BATTERY

Scripture references may be found at the end of each lesson.

1. Why do you want to read the Bible? What are your motives?

If we agree that it is challenging to read the Bible, how has God provided a way for you to understand His words to you? Read John 14:26.

2. In Susan's talk, she introduces a young king named Josiah. Josiah did many great things, but it wasn't until he discovered the Bible that he really got to know who God was. Let's take a look at Josiah's journey to know God.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:2. What were the first three things Josiah did?

Read 2 Chronicles 34:4-5. What were some of the other things Josiah did on his journey to know God?

Verses 4-5 say that he removed the sinful places to purify the land.

What things have crept into your life that need to be removed or purified?

Read the last part of 2 Chronicles 34:8. Notice that after the idols were removed from the land, Josiah moved to his next course of action in his desire to know God. What was it?

Josiah's attention changed from focusing on evil (removing idols) to focusing on what was good (repairing/replacing the temple). What in your life needs repaired or replaced?

While they were repairing and restoring the temple, a great discovery was made. Look at 2 Chronicles 34:15 to discover for yourself.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:19-21 to see Josiah's response to the great discovery.

3. 2 Chronicles 34:21 says that Josiah was grieved because the Israelites had not been doing what the scroll (the Bible) said they must do. We aren't exactly sure what was read to Josiah, but Deuteronomy 6:4-9 was part of the scroll. Read this passage and see what God wants you to restore in your relationship with Him. (Write down everything you read. It's a long list!)

4. All his life, Josiah had done good things, but when he found God's Words, he discovered that his good works were not a replacement for the truths found in God's Words. Re-read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

What does it mean in your life to love the Lord with all your heart, soul and strength? (verse 5)

Which of God's commands are you half-heartedly committed to keeping? (verse 6)

What are some creative ways you can memorize God's Word with others? (verse 7)

What changes might you make so that you are talking with God the last thing before you go to sleep and the first thing when you wake up? (verse 7)

How does God's Word say to learn His Word? (verses 7-8)

How do people "see" Jesus when they enter your house? Is it through ornamental objects or the way you "live"? (verses 5 & 9)

5. After Josiah discovered The Book of the Law (the Bible), life was forever different for both him and the people he led. Let's take one final look at Josiah's story to learn what the lasting result was of his lifetime commitment to reading God's Words. Read 2 Chronicles 34:33. Record what you find. Write your own thoughts about how reading the Bible and applying its truths to your life might impact you (and those around you).

In this lesson, you have been faithful to learn God's Word. Now, it's time to *Hit the Road*. By doing the *Hit the Road* portion of *Jumpstart*, you will take what you have learned and put it into action. Don't miss the most exciting part of the ride.



## HIT THE ROAD

1. In this tattoo world, let's go a little crazy. Get a permanent marker (for those not quite so convinced, you may use a regular ink pen). Write "Hebrews 4:12" on the top of your hand. Then memorize the actual verse: "The word of God is alive and powerful."
2. Where do I begin studying the Bible by myself? Below is a method called **A-L-L**. It will help you hear God speak to you personally. God's Word and the "ALL" method are all you need.

**A**=About (What's the passage or verse about? Facts: Who, What, When, Where, How and Why. It may not answer all these questions.)

**L**=Lessons learned (Truths from the passage)

**L**=Live (Application—how am I going to live as a result of reading and studying the word?)

### EXAMPLE: Psalm 119:165

*Those who love your law have great peace and do not stumble.*

#### **About:**

Who? people who love the law.

What? peace,

When? now, today.

Where? doesn't identify where.

How? love the law.

Why? so you won't stumble.

**Lesson:** Loving God's Words gives me peace. Loving God's Words keeps me from stumbling.

**Live:** When I don't feel at peace, I will read God's Words. When I am stumbling, confused and don't know what to do, I will read God's Words.

**Now, you try the A-L-L method.**

Read James 1:22-25.

*And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. If you don't obey, you are only fooling yourself. 23 For if you just listen and don't obey, it is like looking at your face in a mirror but doing nothing to improve your appearance. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you keep looking steadily into God's perfect law — the law that sets you free — and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.*

**A = About:**

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

**L=Lessons Learned:**

**L=Live:**

3. Today you are going to learn to use key words to find a Bible verse to help you pray. Identify a prayer need in your life. Select one or two keywords from that need. Turn to the back of your Bible and look in the concordance (index) for that key word. There may be several verses that correspond with your word. You may have to use synonyms or similar words to find a verse. Look up the verses and allow God to speak to you through His Words.

For example: I am struggling with the issue of anxiety. Look in the back of your Bible for the word "anxiety". If anxiety isn't found in the concordance (index), think about another word that means anxiety like "fear" or "cares". Look up those words. Under fear, there may be several verses. Look them all up and see if one speaks specifically to your needs. Read Psalm 34:4: "I prayed to the Lord, and He answered me, freeing me from all my fears." In this case the verses that follow continue to speak about fears. If appropriate, insert your name in the verse (or if you are praying for someone else, place their name in the verse).

Your prayer might be: “Lord, I am praying to you, please answer me. Amen.”

This week, pray for someone using God’s Words. Think of someone you know who would benefit mightily from your prayers. Think of a keyword and look it up in your Bible concordance (index). Find a verse that you think applies. Personalize the verse by inserting your friend’s name, then pray for your friend for the whole week (longer if you like).

## SCRIPTURES (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)



### CHARGE YOUR BATTERY

#### **John 14:26 —**

*But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.*

#### **2 Chronicles 34:2-5 —**

*He did what was pleasing in the Lord’s sight and followed the example of his ancestor David. He did not turn away from doing what was right. 3 During the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, Josiah began to seek the God of his ancestor David. Then in the twelfth year he began to purify Judah and Jerusalem, destroying all the pagan shrines, the Asherah poles, and the carved idols and cast images. 4 He ordered that the altars of Baal be demolished and that the incense altars which stood above them be broken down. He also made sure that the Asherah poles, the carved idols, and the cast images were smashed and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. 5 He burned the bones of the pagan priests on their own altars, and so he purified Judah and Jerusalem.*

#### **2 Chronicles 34:8 —**

*In the eighteenth year of his reign, after he had purified the land and the Temple, Josiah appointed Shaphan son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the governor of Jerusalem, and Joah son of Joahaz, the royal historian, to repair the Temple of the Lord his God.*

#### **2 Chronicles 34:15 —**

*Hilkiah said to Shaphan the court secretary, “I have found the Book of the Law in the Lord’s Temple!” Then Hilkiah gave the scroll to Shaphan.*

### **2 Chronicles 34:19-21 —**

*When the king heard what was written in the Law, he tore his clothes in despair.*

*20 Then he gave these orders to Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Acbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the court secretary and Asaiah the king's personal adviser.*

*21 "Go to the Temple and speak to the Lord for me and for all the remnant of Israel and Judah. Inquire about the words written in the scroll that has been found. For the Lord's great anger has been poured out on us because our ancestors have not obeyed the Word of the Lord. We have not been doing everything this scroll says we must do."*

### **2 Chronicles 34:33 —**

*So Josiah removed all detestable idols from the entire land of Israel and required everyone to worship the Lord their God. And throughout the rest of his lifetime, they did not turn away from the Lord, the God of their ancestors.*

### **Deuteronomy 6:4-9 —**

*Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. 5 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. 6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. 8 Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*



## **HIT THE ROAD**

### **Hebrews 4:12 —**

*For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.*

## **BIBLE READING PLANS**

1. The One Year Bible by Tyndale, available in a variety of translations, is an excellent way to read the Bible in a year. Available at Christian book stores and amazon.com.
2. YouVersion.com is an online Bible. It has a variety of Bible reading plans.

*"Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand."*

—Mark Twain