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LETTER AND PRAYER FROM THE AUTHOR

My life was changed at the end of a Young Life Summer Camp when I was given a copy of the New Testament. I wasn't a Christian at the time, but I decided to try the small 30-day reading plan that assigned a few verses, or stories, to read each day. Those 30 days were all God needed to transform my life through His Word, and by the end I was a different person than when I started. I went from feeling adrift to feeling anchored, from being a sinner to being saved, and from just getting by to getting the most out of my one and only God-given life. It was during that time in my life when I realized there is unimaginable power in the words contained in the Bible.

I believe *Alive By God's Word* has the power to transform your life in a similar way. The Bible has existed for ages and has been reproduced and sold more than any other book in the world. It is, in fact, a supernatural book. I tell you that to remind you what you're getting into. You should prepare for this time in your life just as you would for a great adventure. I promise, you and I have no clue what God could do in your life through this study.

MY GOAL FOR YOU IS TWOFOLD:

- 1. That the time you spend in God's Word would breathe life into your mind, body, and soul. I hope you have a real encounter with God through His Word and that as you apply each of these teachings from God to your life, God will use them to bring you life.
- 2. That this study shows you how to take the words from the Bible, understand them and apply them to your day-to-day life. Although the Bible has been around for thousands of years, it is still extremely relevant, right here, right now, in our day and age. Although society is changing at an exponential rate, the human heart has not changed at all. God's word has something to say to your life's challenges large and small.

Matt Allman,
Lead Team Pastor, Northside Christian Church

A PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, You are an amazing Father. You are so above us and beyond us. We can barely fathom Your greatness. God, it is amazing that You have chosen to reveal Your heart, Your character, and Your love through Your Word. As we take this time and explore Your heart and Your will through this study, I pray You would meet us as we study. I pray, God, You would use this study to shape our lives through Your Holy Spirit and make the lives we live pleasing to You. God, I pray for those currently walking through this study and for those who walk through it at some point in the future. Please do in their lives immeasurably more than what they could even ask for or imagine. We set this time apart for You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOW DO I READ THE BIBLE AND GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT?

Understanding Bible Study Methods

Most people I know respect the Bible, appreciate the Bible, and maybe even feel like they should read the Bible. However, many people I know are confused by the Bible and aren't really sure how to read it and get something useful from it.

This is why in *Alive By God's Word* I will walk you through 5 different Bible study methods, all of which are designed to help you look at a different part of the Bible and get something meaningful from it.

Here's a schedule of what's to come. Each week, a different study method will be explained in your book and will also be covered in a video.

Week 1: The S.O.A.P. Study Method

Week 2: The Four Questions Method

Week 3: The First Person Method

Week 4: The S.Q.U.A.D. Study Method

Week 5: The Slow and Steady Method

Each one of these study methods will teach you a different approach to reading the Bible and receiving life from God through His Word. Chances are you'll end up liking one method better than the others. It's important that you give each method a try for the full week. As you do, you'll get better and better as you go. My desire is that by the end of this study you are able to discover which Bible study method is best suited to help you grow deeper in your faith.

UNDERSTANDING THIS STUDY GUIDE

As you begin your journey through *Alive By God's Word*, you'll notice that the weekly content is broken into three pieces:

Piece 1: Weekly Message

Your week begins with a message from our Teaching Team. You can watch the message at *mynorthside.com/alivebygodsword* or on our YouTube channel. Just look for the Alive by God's Word message to get started.

Piece 2: Group Discussion Guide

If you've joined a Life Group to journey through *Alive By God's Word* with, you may choose to talk through this section together with them. Taking a look at these questions in advance will give you time to think through your answers so you're not put on the spot during group discussions.

Piece 3: Study Method and Study Method Sample

As we mentioned, each week you're going to learn a new Bible study method that is designed to help you get the most out of your reading time. These will be covered each week in our weekly videos and described at the beginning of each session.

Piece 4: Weekly Readings

Each week will contain 6 days of Bible reading. Yes 6, not 7. This will give you 1 day off each week to rest. Sometimes the passage from the Bible will be printed in your book and sometimes you'll simply be given a scripture reference to look up. You can use a physical Bible or the YouVersion Bible app to read your passage from scripture.

How scripture references work:

Scripture references first cite the name of the book of the Bible, followed by the chapter number of that book, and then the verse(s) of that chapter (Book of Bible Chapter Number: Verse Number(s)), i.e. James 2:2-10

Examples:

For James 2:2-10, go to the book of James, then to the second chapter, and read verses 2-10.

For 1 Timothy 3:1-15, go to the book of 1 Timothy, then to the third chapter, and read verses 1-15.

Piece 5: Weekly Memory Verse

Each week you will memorize one verse or passage from the Bible. Take time after your reading and journaling to complete the quick memory verse exercise.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET STUCK

You will likely come to a point in this study where you feel somewhat lost or confused. Don't worry if this happens to you. With any new skill, there are days when things come easily and there are days when things take a while to understand. In the event that you get stuck, I recommend trying these 3 things:

- **1. Consult a friend.** Ask a friend who is also going through this study and who is a mature Christian, what they're doing and how they are approaching each week. Chances are they'll have something helpful to tell you that will get you back on track.
- **2. Ask the right questions.** If you are having a challenging day, try asking the following questions:

Am I in the right setting?

Is there anything in your setting that is distracting you from fully focusing on your study?

How are my mind, body, and soul?

Are you tired, emotionally drained, or tired from work? Figure out what you need to do to approach the Bible with fresh, physical and emotional energy.

What is standing in my way?

Is there a sinful action, or attitude that you need to lay down before reading your Bible. This could mean calling a friend or family member to say sorry for something you've done, or telling God you're sorry for a sin you've committed that is troubling your conscience. Remember, God loves you and is quick to forgive when you repent with a genuine heart!



GOD'S WORD IS
ALIVE

MESSAGE 1: GOD'S WORD IS ALIVE

Begin by watching Alive By God's Word Message 1.

Find the messages, study method videos, and additional resources via mynorthside.com/alivebygodsword.

This Week's Bible Study Method: S.O.A.P Study Method

- SCRIPTURE
- OBSERVATION
- APPLICATION
- PRAYER

This Week's Memory Verse:



2 Timothy 3:16

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

GETTING STARTED:

If the group is fairly new, start by simply sharing three things.

- 1. What's your favorite food?
- 2. What's your favorite childhood memory?
- 3. What's something still on your bucket list?

Let's start this journey by simply acknowledging that learning to read scripture can be intimidating. Remember, this journey isn't about seeing who knows the most, it's about becoming alive as God's Word transforms us.

As a group, we're stronger when we get our fears or hesitations out in the open. As you begin this Bible study, share what are you afraid of, what intimidates you, or what makes you nervous when it comes to starting to read the Bible regularly.

What can we do as a group to address these fears and encourage each other?

TIP OF THE WEEK:

First create consistency, then increase intensity.

READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

THIS WEEK:

- + What parts of your personal life would you like to see God breathe life into?
- + It is important to have a consistent time and place for reading scripture.

 What would be a good time and place for you?
- + First practice consistency. Since this may be a new habit for you, what can you do to make sure you have a consistent time and place to study God's Word?

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS DO YOU MOST NEED TO HOLD ONTO THIS NEXT WEEK?

- 1. God is not judging me based on how much I read or how much I know. He simply wants me to know Him more.
- 2. This is not a competition. God won't love me more if I read more and pray more than everyone else in the group this week.
- 3. Reading the Bible is not about trying to erase the bad I've done. I'm already forgiven through Jesus. Reading the Bible is about me becoming more alive in His Word and not about trying to make up for my past.

WRAPPING UP:

How can we pray for each other this week?

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STUDY METHOD: THE S.O.A.P. STUDY METHOD

Watch the S.O.A.P. Study Method video at mynorthside.com/alivebygodsword.

S.O.A.P. is a simple acrostic you can apply to any chapter of the Bible or section of scripture to help you get a fresh word from God for your day-to-day life. Each letter stands for a different action you perform as you study the Bible.

SCRIPTURE

As you read the Bible passage, ask God to bring home one verse or thought from the reading that stands out to you. Focus on one simple idea or verse and then write that verse word-forword in your journal or notebook. The goal here is to pick a single idea from the passage to focus on. This should be one or two verses.

OBSERVATION

Carefully read what the verse says and write down everything you observe about the verse. Think about what the author was trying to communicate to the original audience and to us in present day. You can write observations about any of the following: God, the setting of the passage, what's happening, meanings you derive from the words, how characters might have felt, insights into the language used in the verse, and/or key words used in that section of scripture. Make note of the lesson that this scripture seems to be teaching.

APPLICATION

In this section, take time to write out how you can put the lesson God is teaching you from this portion of scripture into practice. Your response should answer the question: How will I be different today because of what I've read? The goal here is to adjust your life to the truth of God's Word. An easy way to start is writing the sentence,

"This passage means I need to_____," and fill in the blank.

PRAYER

In the last section, jot down a prayer about the lesson you have learned. Remember, we are not required to live out God's Word by our own moral force. God wants to give you the grace (power) to live this lesson out in your day-to-day life. Write a prayer expressing your need for God's strength and ask for help applying the lesson you've learned to your everyday life.

THE S.O.A.P. STUDY METHOD EXAMPLE

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 75:6-7

6 No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt themselves. 7 It is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.

OBSERVATION

Promotion. A promotion at work is something I work towards. Of course I want to be promoted as much as possible. This verse informs me of something interesting. It shows me that promotions come ultimately from God. This reminds me that God is working and active even in my workplace. I don't think God is a genie who will grant me any wish, but I do see He is watching and active in my daily life.

APPLICATION

This reminds me that my character matters in my workplace. It reminds me that my ultimate boss is God. Being a good worker starts with first trying to honor Him by doing things His way. This means treating others well, putting others first, and honoring the people around me because God cares about them.

PRAYER

God help me to bring you to work with me. Give me the strength today to honor others that I work with. God help me remember that you truly are in control, even at work.

Amen.

Scripture: Write out	the one verse that stands out to you.
Observation: Write wants for you.	down any observations you have that show you who God is and what he
Application: Apply because of this?	the above observations to your life. How should your behavior change
Prayer: Write down	a quick prayer asking for God's help with what you've discovered.



MEMORY VERSE EXERCISE

Trace over the words in the verse below as you say it to yourself.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

Scripture: Write out the one verse that stands out to you.		
Observation: Write down any observations you have that show you who God is and what he wants for you.		
Application: Apply the above observations to your life. How should your behavior change because of this?		
Prayer: Write down a quick prayer asking for God's help with what you've discovered.		
MEMORY VERSE EXERCISE Fill in the missing words as you read the verse.		



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GOD'S WORD IS STORY

MESSAGE 2: GOD'S WORD IS STORY

Begin by watching Alive By God's Word Message 2.

Find the messages, study method videos, and additional resources via mynorthside.com/alivebygodsword.

This Week's Bible Study Method: The Four Questions Method

- Question 1: What do I see in this passage that I can thank God for?
- Question 2: What do I need to repent of?
- Question 3: Where do I need God's help?
- Question 4: Where can I find Jesus in this passage?

This Week's Memory Verse:



John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

TIP OF THE WEEK:

Remember as we walk through these questions, this isn't a competition and the more open you are in your group, the more everyone will benefit, including yourself.

RECAPPING THE PAST WEEK:

- + How did you do over the course of the last week as you practiced S.O.A.P.?
- + Were you able to be consistent in having a time and place to study the Bible? What was the biggest obstacle that stood in your way?
- + What parts were challenging? Why?
- + Which parts came easily? Why?
- + Did you learn anything new this past week? What, if anything, changed in the way you saw God or saw your own life?
- + What was an application that you made to your life this past week? Is anything different for you because of that? (Small differences count. The norm would be to have one or two small differences, rather than six major differences in one week.)

THIS WEEK:

- + How does the idea that the Bible is one grand story change the way you view scripture?

 If you already understood this concept, how has this idea previously impacted the way you read scripture?
- + Which part of the grand story do you resonate with most? Why do you think that is?
- + Which part of the grand story do you feel like you tend to overlook the most? Why is it important to be reminded of that part?
- + As we prepare for this week's study method, what, if anything, do you need to change from last week, so you can have a consistent time and place to study scripture?
- + What is your plan to make that happen?

WRAPPING UP:

How can we encourage one another? How can we pray for each other this week? Remember as we walk through these questions, this isn't a competition and the more open you are in your group, the more everyone will benefit, including yourself. Pretending doesn't help anyone.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STUDY METHOD: THE FOUR QUESTIONS METHOD

Watch the Four Questions Study Method video at mynorthside.com/alivebygodsword.

The "Four Questions Method" of Bible study is as simple as it sounds. You'll read the assigned chapter of the Bible and then ask four questions that are designed to help you interpret the message God is trying to convey.

As we mentioned in the group lesson, there are many passages in the Bible that foreshadow Jesus' coming to earth, before He actually did. In addition to helping your faith grow, the Four Questions Method helps you see of the foretelling of Jesus in Old Testament passages.

To practice the Four Questions Method, simply open to your Bible to the chosen passage and then write down your answers to the four questions provided above. As you do this, ask God to show up and teach you through His Word.

QUESTION 1: WHAT DO I SEE IN THIS PASSAGE THAT I CAN THANK GOD FOR?

Look at the text and find something admirable about God from the passage. Then write your findings with a grateful heart. This spirit of gratitude will shape the rest of your time reading and bring life to your day.

QUESTION 2: WHAT DO I NEED TO REPENT OF?

Examine your life to identify where you may need to apologize to God for disobeying His commands. Self-examination is usually when we find we have been trying to do God's job for Him and/or not allowing God to do His work in our lives. Remember, repenting should ultimately lead to freedom. When we have gotten off track and come back to God's plans for us, we gain the freedom to live the life He has planned for us. Life always works better with God in His proper place in our lives.

QUESTION 3: WHERE DO I NEED GOD'S HELP?

Based on what you've read, look for where you need God's help living out the passage. God is eager to strengthen you and help you live the life He's called you to. Simply ask for God's help and He will provide it.

QUESTION 4: WHERE CAN I FIND JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE?

Look for ways this passage points you to Jesus. Maybe the passage reveals characteristics of Jesus and the freedom found in a life lived for Him. Perhaps you remember God's covenant to fulfill the promises found in the passage as is evident by Jesus dying for your sins. Perhaps you are reminded of God's unending love and grace for you. Maybe the passage makes you thankful that Jesus came into your life and did what you couldn't do on your own.

THE FOUR QUESTIONS STUDY METHOD EXAMPLE

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 121

11 lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? 2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. 3 He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand; 6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. 7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; 8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

QUESTION 1: WHAT DO I SEE IN THIS PASSAGE THAT I CAN THANK GOD FOR?

I learned you watch over us, Lord. I know you care, deliver, bless, give, help, and protect. I was raised to think that one wrong move could send my life crashing down, but, God, it is awesome to know you are watching over me and have my life in your hands despite the mistakes I may make. You sit above everything. You sit with the universe under you, yet you are watching over me - even when I sleep. I don't have to worry or fear. God, I just need to be taken care of by you. God, you are awesome!

QUESTION 2: WHAT DO I NEED TO REPENT OF?

I need to get back on track God. I repent of missing the point of your message. I'm always sweating and freaking out. Father, free me from that. God, move through me. God, I'm sorry I act like you don't care for me and that I have to do it all myself. I'm sorry for counting you out by my attitude. God, I want you and only you as the Lord of my life. Sit enthroned on my life!!!! In Jesus' name!

QUESTION 3: WHERE DO I NEED GOD'S HELP?

God, the grace I need is to feel this and to become more aware of your love for me. To be more aware of the idea that you are watching over me, over my life. Please lead me like a good shepherd. God, I want a strong awareness of your presence. God, I want to know this. I want to memorize this. I want to meditate on this. I want it to become as real as this bench I'm sitting on. Father, please help me with that!

QUESTION 4: WHERE CAN I FIND JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE?

Oh Jesus, you are the perfect expression of God's love. I think of how you calmed the storm for your disciples. How you showed them that you are Lord over storms. However, you allowed yourself to be crushed, so that God could love me and watch out for me.

I give you my life today and every day. Help me to walk faithfully. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Question 1: What do I see in this passage that I can thank God for?
Question 2: What do I need to repent of?
Question 3: Where do I need God's help?
Question 4: Where can I find Jesus in this passage?



MEMORY VERSE EXERCISE

Trace over the words in the verse below as you say it to yourself.

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

estion 2: What do I need to repent of?	
estion 7: Where do I need Cod's help?	
estion 3: Where do I need God's help?	
estion 4: Where can I find Jesus in this passage?	
MEMORY VERSE EXERCISE	
Fill in the missing words as you read the verse.	
John 15:5	
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Question 2: What do I need to repent of?
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Question 4: Where can I find Jesus in this passage?



MEMORY VERSE EXERCISE

Fill in the missing words as you read the verse.

John 15:5	
I am the	; you are the
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you can do	

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you will bear much _____; apart from me you can do _____



WEEK 3

GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH

MESSAGE 3: GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH

Begin by watching Alive By God's Word Message 3.

Find the messages, study method videos, and additional resources via mynorthside.com/alivebygodsword.

This Week's Bible Study Method: The First Person Method

- 1. Read the Bible and pretend like you are at the scene described in the text.
- 2. Write an account of what happened in the Bible story like you're writing a letter to a friend.
- 3. When reading, try to forget anything you've heard about the story before.
- 4. Draw conclusions.
- 5. Apply the conclusions to your life in the, "For Me" section.

This Week's Memory Verse:



Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

TIP OF THE WEEK:

Hopefully, new habits are beginning to take root in your life. Keep the momentum going.

RECAPPING THE PAST WEEK:

- + How did it go this last week as we practiced the Four Questions Method?
- + What is something you found yourself thanking God for that you weren't expecting? Or what was something surprising you found yourself asking for God's help with?
- + Were you able to be consistent in having a time and place to quietly study God's word? What was the biggest obstacle that stood in your way?
- + What parts were challenging? What parts came easily? Why?
- + Did you learn anything new this past week? What, if anything, changed in the way you saw God or saw your own life?
- + Now that we've practiced two different methods, which felt like a more natural fit for you?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 1:7 & HEBREWS 4:12

THIS WEEK:

- + Why is it important to let scripture correct our thoughts and actions?
- + Most of us have probably been hurt by someone who used scripture as a weapon against us instead of applying it to their own life. How could the First Person Method of study prevent that?
- + If you are creative, the First Person Method might really resonate with you. But if you're not, this might be a bit intimidating. What truth do you need to hold on to this week as you practice this method?
- + What, if anything, needs to be different for you this week in order to have a consistent time and place to study God's Word?

WRAPPING UP:

How can we encourage each other this week?

What tangible needs can we meet in each other's lives?

How can we pray for each other?

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STUDY METHOD: THE FIRST PERSON METHOD

Watch the First Person Study Method video at mynorthside.com/alivebygodsword.

STEP 1

Read the Bible and pretend like you are at the scene described in the text.

STEP 2

Acting as if you are writing a letter to a friend, write an account of what happened in the Bible story you read.

STEP 3

When reading, try to forget anything you've heard before about the story.

STEP 4

Draw conclusions about who Jesus is and what He wants for your life.

STEP 5

Apply the conclusions to your life in the, "For Me" section.

SAMPLE STORY

Matthew 8:23-27

23 Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. 24 Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. 25 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" 26 He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. 27 The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

THE FIRST PERSON STUDY METHOD EXAMPLE

SCRIPTURE

Luke 7:11-17

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12 As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."

14 Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

16 They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." 17 This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

MY FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT

So this Jesus was on His way to do something else, or be somewhere else, but He stopped because He had compassion. He cared about this woman who had just lost her son. It's crazy because Jesus cares about people, about where they are, about what's going on in their lives and their ups and downs. Jesus cares. Jesus cares deeply.

So Jesus interrupted a funeral. A funeral. This was awkward and weird for everyone. Then He walked up to the woman's dead son and said, "get up," and believe it or not, the dead boy came back to life. This was terrifying - no one there had ever seen this happen before, but the boy was completely shocked and totally fine. Apparently, this Jesus has authority over the law, authority over sickness, and apparently authority over life and death, but He also cares deeply for us.

FOR ME

This passage shows me two things about Jesus. One is that He cares for me. While Jesus did heal this boy, He also cared deeply about the woman in this story. He cared about her and what she was going through. This shows me that Jesus cares for the challenges I face.

This passage also shows me that Jesus has power. He had the power to raise this boy from the dead. He, therefore, must have incredible power to heal me, help me, and guide me, too.

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or Me: ⊺	ake what you experienced in this story and apply the findings to your life.

MEMORY VERSE EXERCISE

Trace over the words in the verse below as you say it to yourself.



Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

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or Me: Take what you experienced in this story and	apply the findings to your life.
MEMORY VERSE EXERCISE	
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Proverbs 3:5-6	
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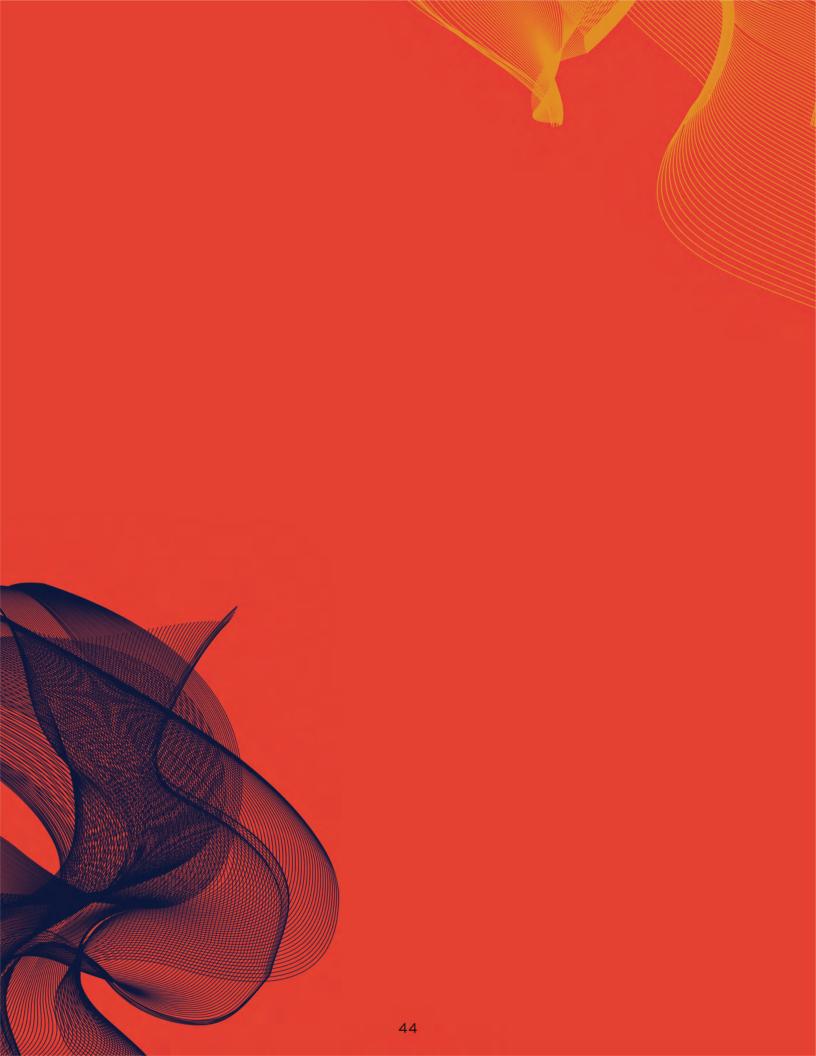
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WEEK 4

GOD'S WORD IS ACTIVE

MESSAGE 4: GOD'S WORD IS ACTIVE

Begin by watching Alive By God's Word Message 4.

Find the messages, study method videos, and additional resources via mynorthside.com/alivebygodsword.

This Week's Method: The S.Q.U.A.D. Study Method

- SCRIPTURE
- QUALITY OF GOD
- UNDERSTANDING
- APPLICATION
- DOUBTS AND FALSE BELIEFS

This Week's Memory Verse:

I Peter 5:8



Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

TIP OF THE WEEK:

Hopefully, new habits are beginning to take root in your life. Keep the momentum going.

RECAPPING THE PAST WEEK:

- + How did practicing the First Person Method go? What did you notice or learn?
- + What parts were challenging? Why?
- + Which parts came easily? Why?
- + Did you learn anything new this past week? What, if anything, changed in the way you saw God or your own life?
- + What was an application you made in your own life from the readings this past week?

READ JOHN 8:32 & PROVERBS 3:5-6

THIS WEEK:

- + Before today, did you think of God as being someone who wanted to know you and be known by you?
- + While some things about God will always be mysterious, why is it important to recognize that God does care about us knowing the truth?
- + The more you believe a lie, the more harm it does in your life. How does knowing the truth make us more free and alive?
- + It seems everything today has an agenda behind it. How does the fact that God's Word predates all of our current issues actually make it more reliable and trustworthy?
- + When all of the current issues are gone and new ones are taking their place, God's love will still be the same. Why should that bring us hope?

WRAPPING UP:

How can we encourage each other this week?

How can we pray for each other this week?

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STUDY METHOD: THE S.Q.U.A.D. STUDY METHOD

Watch the S.Q.U.A.D. Study Method video at mynorthside.com/alivebygodsword.

The S.Q.U.A.D. study method equips you with a convenient and easy-to-use acronym for your Bible study. You are encouraged to gather with fellow Christ-seekers and create a "squad" who can keep you accountable with your studies.

SCRIPTURE

As you read the section of the Bible, ask God to help you spotlight one verse or thought from the reading that stands out to you. Focus on one simple idea or verse and then write that verse, word-for-word in your journal or notebook. The goal here is to pick a single idea from the passage to focus on. This should be one or two verses.

QUALITY OF GOD

Now that you have picked out the verse or two, think about a quality of God this verse makes you think of. You might use words along the lines of loving, understanding, sovereign, fatherly, powerful, generous, etc.

UNDERSTANDING

In this section answer the question, What do you now understand better about God's point of view and how your life fits into His plan? Answering this question will help you "put yourself in God's shoes" and gain a more heaven-minded perspective on life.

APPLICATION

In this section, take time to write out how you can put the lesson God is teaching you into practice. Your application notes should be about how this teaching applies to you. It should answer the question: How will I be different today because of what I've read? Our goal here is adjusting our life to the truth of God's word. An easy way to start is writing the sentence, "This passage means I need to _______," and fill in the blank.

DOUBTS AND FALSE BELIEFS

Take a moment to identify any doubts or false beliefs planted in your mind that could keep you from fully embracing the truth found in the verse you just read. Write them down along with a one or two sentence prayer letting go of those false beliefs and asking for God's power to believe the truth you discovered in the daily reading.

THE S.Q.U.A.D. STUDY METHOD EXAMPLE

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:4-5

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.

QUALITY OF GOD

Unconditional Love

UNDERSTANDING

This helps me understand that when I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior and repented of my sins, He now looks at me and literally does not see any of my past sins anymore. It was not because of anything that I did by myself that saved me, it was all by God's grace. Even when we think we are not good enough for God's forgiveness, His love endures.

APPLICATION

I will praise God and be grateful for His unconditional love. Sometimes I am still ashamed of my sins and it's difficult to accept God's forgiveness that He freely gives me, but I will apply what I learned by fully embracing God's grace. And because of this free gift He gave to me, I will forgive others who have sinned against me.

DOUBTS AND FALSE BELIEFS

Sometimes, I'm tempted to think that my good behavior is what keeps me saved. On days when I slip, or feel like I haven't prayed enough, I fear that God is not happy with me. This verse reminds me that these thoughts aren't God's truth. God saved me. I'm saved by His grace. I don't have to earn it. God, please give me the power to hold onto this truth, even when I don't feel like it.

Scripture: Write out the verse or verses that stand out to you.
Quality of God: Use one to two adjectives to describe the quality of God the Scripture made you think of.
Understanding: What do you now understand better about God's point of view and how your life fits into His plan?
Application: Apply these observations to your life. What should you do because of this?
Doubts and False Beliefs: What doubts, or false beliefs do need to replace with the truth found in today's passage?

MEMORY VERSE EXERCISE

Trace over the words in the verse below as you say it to yourself.



I Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Scripture. Write out the verse of verses that stand out to you.
Quality of God: Use one to two adjectives to describe the quality of God the Scripture made you think of.
Understanding: What do you now understand better about God's point of view and how your life fits into His plan?
Application: Apply these observations to your life. What should you do because of this?
Doubts and False Beliefs: What doubts, or false beliefs do need to replace with the truth found in today's passage?
MEMORY VERSE EXERCISE Fill in the missing words as you read the verse.

I Peter 5:8

Be _____ and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Scripture: Write out the v	erse or verses that stand out to you.	
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Application: Apply these	observations to your life. What should you do	because of this?
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WEEK 5

GOD'S WORD GUIDES

MESSAGE 5: GOD'S WORD GUIDES

Begin by watching Alive By God's Word Message 5.

Find the messages, study method videos, and additional resources via mynorthside.com/alivebygodsword.

This Week's Bible Study Method: The Slow and Steady Method

- Step 1: Write the verse out by hand, along with the scripture reference.
- Step 2: Focus on specific words in the verse that stand out to you. Write down why these words are meaningful to you.
- Step 3: Paraphrase this verse in your own words.
- Step 4: Apply your findings. Write down what you will do about what you discovered.

This Week's Memory Verse:



Psalms 119:11

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

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

TIP OF THE WEEK:

Once again, remember as we walk through these questions, this isn't a competition. It is more beneficial to be open and honest, than to be guarded and right.

RECAPPING THE PAST WEEK:

- + How did it go this last week as we practiced the S.Q.U.A.D. Method?
- + What parts were challenging? Why? What parts came easily? Why?
- + Did you learn anything new this past week?
- + What, if anything, changed in the way you perceive God or your own life?
- + What was an application that you made this past week?

CHECKPOINT:

- + We are now almost finished with the different study methods.

 Take a look back at the last few weeks.
- + How have you grown?
- + What's been helpful about this process? What's frustrated you?
- + What's something you've learned that was interesting to you?
- + What do you wish you could go back and tell yourself at the beginning?

WRAPPING UP:

How can we help each other with applying those truths?

How can we be praying for each other this week?

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STUDY METHOD: THE SLOW AND STEADY METHOD

Watch the Slow and Steady Study Method video at mynorthside.com/alivebygodsword.

This study method will teach you to focus on one Bible verse at a time, getting as much out of that one verse as possible. During the one verse study, you will walk through a simple four-step process designed to help you bring your verse to life.

STEP/1:/

Write the verse out by hand along with the scripture reference.

STEP 2:

Focus on specific words in the verse that stand out to you. Write down why these words are meaningful to you.

STEP 3:

Paraphrase this verse in your own words.

STEP 4:

Apply your findings. Write down what you will do about what you have discovered.

ONE VERSE STUDY METHOD EXAMPLE

SCRIPTURE

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Key Words:

Loved:

Shows me that God acts out of love. In this passage God is motivated by His love for the world.

Gave:

God gave His son. Jesus dying for my sins is a gift given to me from God.

Believes:

God wants me to believe in Jesus. I feel like believing here is something I do with my heart and it requires trust.

Paraphrase:

God has so much love for me and everyone else that He gave His son as a gift and if I believe in my heart in im I will live forever with Him.

My Application:

Today I will remember that I am free of my sin and that I will live forever with God because He gave His son for me.

his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:9-10	
Step 1: Write the verse out by hand.	
Step 2: Write down keywords and what they mean to you.	
Step 3: Paraphrase this verse in your own words.	
Step 4: Apply your findings. Write down what you will do about what you have discover	ed.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that

we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent

MEMORY VERSE EXERCISE

Trace over the words in the verse below as you say it to yourself.



Psalms 119:11

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

	present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all undergy, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7
Step 1:	Write the verse out by hand.
Step 2:	Write down keywords and what they mean to you.
Step 3:	Paraphrase this verse in your own words.
Step 4	Apply your findings. Write down what you will do about what you have discovered.
	Y VERSE EXERCISE e missing words as you read the verse.
	Psalms 119:11 I have your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
	i nave your word in my neart that i might not sin against you.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanks-

justly (and to love mercy and to walk humbly	with your God. Micah 6:8	
Step 1	: Write the verse out by hand.		
Step 2	2: Write down keywords and what they	mean to you.	
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	I have hidden your word in my	that I might not	against you.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act

			nor anything else in all creation, will lesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39
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Step 3	: Paraphrase this vers	se in your own words.	
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	6		

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present

from God, who reconciled us was reconciling the world to to us the message of reconcilins appeal through us. We im	s to himself through Christ a himself in Christ, not counti iliation. 20 We are therefore	nd gave us the ministry of reng people's sins against ther Christ's ambassadors, as th	econciliation: 19 that God m. And he has committed ough God were making
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	I have	your word in my	that I
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6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the



DON'T STOP NOW

Great work. You have just completed 30 amazing days of breathing God's Word. I'm sure by now you have experienced the life, energy, and strength that are found in the promises of the Bible. Here's the good news, this new life can be an everyday reality for you. God's word is a never ending source of life. Here are a few tips to help you continue on your journey:

- •Pick a friend you want to keep reading and growing with. Text each other when you've completed your study.
- •Prioritize your time each day. Pick your daily study time the night before and treat it like a meeting with the president.
- •Plan it out. Following a Bible reading plan will help you stay consistent. We recommend the plans in the YouVersion Bible app.
- •TREAT YO SELF. Yeah it doesn't start with a, "P" but it works.





