

## THE BIBLE FOR LIFE: Introduction

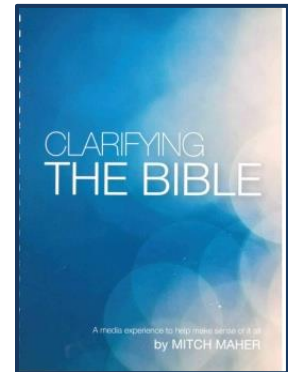
### THE BIG PICTURE

*For many of us, the Bible's size and complexity are overwhelming. A quick run-through can help you see how the pieces really do fit together in the larger picture of God's redemption for His people.*

**Clarifying the Bible** (K-DVD BIBLE) Explains how the Bible is put together, easy to understand.

**The Story for Children** (J 220.5 STORY) A quick run through the Bible in chronological order. This is written for children, but makes an easy adult read.

**Understanding the Bible** (220 STOTT) has two wonderful chapters on "The Story of the Bible" that show the Bible as one continuous story. In fact, the whole book is well worth reading.

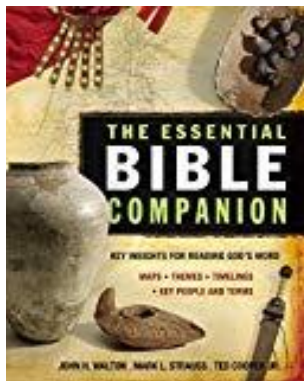


### TO THINK ABOUT AS YOU BEGIN

We tend to read with certain expectations, looking for answers to our questions, and confirmation of our presuppositions, or rushing to an application that's 'relevant' for right now.

However, we need to remind ourselves that we need to let the Word of God tell us what's important and diagnose us in our sinfulness. The text actually says something that we need to understand. In order to break past our biases, we need to ask ourselves "what in this text do I not want to believe?" Finally, application must always arise out of the clear meaning of the text, which may show us something hard, something we don't want to obey.

### READY TO READ THE BIBLE



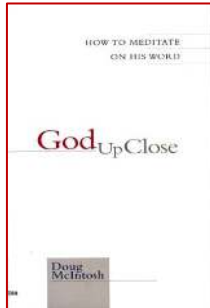
*We have handouts with more detailed instructions for "Reading Through the Bible" and "Personal Bible Study," but here are two books with valuable background and insight.*

**The Essential Bible Companion** (220.7 WALTON) This provides visually inviting introductions with colorful 2-page spread for each book of the Bible.

**Knowing Scripture** (220.6 SPROUL) Practical suggestions to help you read and interpret the Bible.

## THE BIBLE AND PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

*A lot of us use our devotional time to prepare ourselves for the day. We want encouragement, perhaps advice for a problem or guidance for a decision.*



***God Up Close*** (248.3 MCINTOSH) is a big help in learning to read devotionally, to learn God's mind, His character, and what He has done for us in Christ.

***Praying in the Word of God*** (242.5 GRANT) Praying the Word back to God.

## HIDE IT IN YOUR HEART

*Nothing brings God's Word into your heart and life like memorizing it. Yes, you can do this! It may take longer to memorize as we get older, but that just means we spend more time pondering the meaning.*

***When I Don't Desire God*** (248.4 PIPER) see chapter 8.

***Mindful of the Truth: A System for Scripture Memorization*** (220.6 HAYDEN) This booklet is only 15 pages long, but a great help for getting started.

