

Adult Teachers  
Sabbath School  
Bible Study Guide  
April | May | June 2026

# GROWING IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

## HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Lesson 5 Study Notes[ABSG-2-2026]

April 25-May 1

## **Disclaimer**

These notes are prepared to support personal and group Bible study. While written with care and in harmony with Scripture, the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide, and the Spirit of Prophecy, they are not an official publication of the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Reader is encouraged to rely first on the Bible, together with the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide and the Spirit of Prophecy writings.

## Lesson 5 [April 25-May 1]: Understanding the Memory Text

“So shall **My word** be that goes forth from **My mouth**; it shall **not** return to Me **void**, but it shall **accomplish** what **I please**, and it shall **prosper** in the thing for which **I sent it**” (Isaiah 55:11, NKJV).

- This lesson is about **how to study the Bible** in a way that **truly changes** our lives.
- Many people **read the Bible**, but **not all are transformed** by it. **Why?**
- The text gives the **answer**: **God's Word** is **powerful** and **always works**—but we must **receive it the right way**.

### “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth...”

- The Bible is **not human opinion**.
- It comes **directly from God**.
- Every word carries His **authority**, His **character**, and His **purpose**.
- This means when you open the Bible, you are **not just reading**—you are **listening to God Himself**.
- That is why **prayer** is so **important** before reading.
- We are **asking God** to help us **understand** what He is saying.

### “...it shall not return to Me void...”

- “**Void**” means **empty** or **without result**.
- **God's Word never fails**.
- It **always** does **something**.
- Even when we do **not feel it**, **God** is working through His Word:
  - **Correcting**
  - **Teaching**
  - **Encouraging**
  - **Calling us closer to Him**
- But this study on **Understanding Isaiah 55:11** shows something **important**:
- If we **rush**, **ignore**, or **resist** the Word, we may **miss** what it is doing in us.
- The **problem** is **never the Word**.

- The problem is often our **time**, **attention**, or **attitude**.

## “...but it shall accomplish what I please...”

- **God** has a **purpose** for **every part** of Scripture.
- His Word is **meant** to:
  - **Reveal** who He is
  - **Show** us our condition
  - **Guide** us in daily life
  - **Grow** our relationship with Him
- When we study the Bible **deeply**—**praying**, **writing**, **thinking**, and **applying**—it begins to **accomplish God's purpose** in us.
- This is why **shallow reading** leaves us **empty**, but **thoughtful study changes** us.

## “...and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

- “**Prosper**” means **succeed**.
- **God's Word always succeeds** in what He sends it to do:
  - It **grows faith** (Romans 10:17)
  - It **gives understanding** (Psalm 119:105)
  - It **brings life to the soul** (Matthew 4:4)
- When we spend **regular**, **intentional time** in the Bible, it **will bear fruit** in our lives.
- Just like Jesus taught in **John 15**, **abiding in Him** brings **fruit**—and **His Word** is a **key part of that connection**.

## What This Means for You

- **Take time** with God's Word. **Do not rush**. **Slow down** and **listen**.
- **Pray** before and during reading. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to guide you.
- **Study**, **don't just read**. **Write**, **reflect**, and **apply** what you learn.
- **Be consistent**. Even when you **don't feel like it**, **God's Word is still working**.
- **Share** what you learn. It will **strengthen** both you and others.

**God's Word always works**—it **never fails**. If you give it **time**, **attention**, and an **open heart**, it will **change your life**, **grow your faith**, and **draw you closer to God** every day.

# April 25: Sabbath Afternoon - Overview

## Summary

- This week focuses on **how to study the Bible** in a **meaningful** and **life-changing way**.
- Many of us have Bibles, but we may **struggle to use them consistently**.
- Sometimes we **don't know where to start** or how to study in a way that helps us **grow**.
- The Bible is **not just a book** to read quickly or occasionally.
- It is **God's living Word**, given to help us **know Him better**.
- The **value** we place on the Bible **affects our relationship with God**.
- If we **neglect it**, our spiritual life becomes **weak**.
- If we **spend time in it**, we grow **stronger** and **closer to Him**.
- **God's Word** is **powerful**.
- It does **not return empty**—it **changes hearts** and **transforms lives**.
- This week will show us **practical ways** to study the Bible:
  - **Taking time** instead of rushing
  - **Creating a quiet place** to meet with God
  - **Studying with prayer** and openness
  - **Applying** what we learn
- Bible study is **not about finishing chapters**.
- It is about **meeting with God** and allowing Him to speak to us.
- Whether your Bible study life is **strong** or **weak** right now, you can **grow**.
- **God** invites you to **spend time with Him daily** and learn from His Word.

## Main Points to Learn This Week

**Sunday:** We will learn the **importance of making time for God**.

Rushed Bible reading brings **little benefit**. We need to **slow down** and truly connect with Him.

**Monday:** We will see the **value of having a special place** to meet God. Jesus had a **quiet place to pray**. We also need a **daily space** to be with Him.

**Tuesday:** We will learn how to **study the Bible deeply**. Prayer, writing, and sharing help us **understand** and **remember** God's Word.

**Wednesday:** We will discover the **blessing of sharing** what we learn. Teaching others **strengthens our own understanding** and **encourages them**.

**Thursday:** We will understand how **sweet** and **satisfying** God's Word is. It **nourishes our souls** and brings **true joy and understanding**.

Let this week be a **fresh start**—a chance to build a **deeper**, more **personal time with God** through His Word.

## April 26: Sunday - Time

Read: John 15:1–8; Acts 17:11; Jeremiah 29:13; Psalm 37:4; Psalm 46:10

### Summary

- Many people **rush through Bible reading**.
- Quick reading often leaves the **heart empty**.
- It is possible to read **much** but understand **little**.
- True study requires **time** and **attention**.
- **God** gave **His Word** so we can **know Him**.
- Knowing **God** leads us to **love Him more**.
- The Bible reveals **God's character** and **His works**.
- It also helps us **understand ourselves**.
- Time with **God** must be **intentional**.
- It will **not** happen by **accident**.
- We should ask **God** to give us **desire** for **Him**.
- A **willing heart** makes **Bible study meaningful**.
- We must **surrender our time** to **God**.
- Time with **Him** is **more important** than **busy schedules**.
- **Quiet time** helps us **hear God** clearly.
- **Stillness** allows the **heart** to connect **with Him**.
- We should spend time with **God even when** we **don't feel like it**.
- Spiritual growth requires **discipline** and **consistency**.
- Good habits take **time** to **form**.
- We need the **Holy Spirit** to help us **remain faithful**.
- **Jesus** calls us to **abide in Him**.
- This means **staying connected** to **Him daily**.
- Without **Him**, we **cannot grow** spiritually.
- With **Him**, we **bear fruit** and live **meaningful lives**.

### Question

- What does it mean to **abide in Christ**, and why is it **important**?

### Answer

- It means to **stay closely connected** to **Jesus every day**, because **only through Him** can we **grow** and **bear spiritual fruit**.

### Reflection

- Are you giving **God** your **best time**, or **only what is left over**?

### Takeaway

- Time with **God** must be **intentional**, **unhurried**, and **daily** if we are to **truly know Him**.

## April 27: Monday - A Place

Read: Mark 1:35; Psalm 27:8; 1 Chronicles 16:11; Luke 10:39–42

### Summary

- Jesus woke up **very early** to pray.
- He went to a **quiet place** to be **alone with God**.
- He **separated Himself** from the crowd.
- He made **time before the day began**.
- Time with **God** was a **clear priority**.
- It gave **Him strength** for His daily work.
- If **Jesus** needed this time, **we need it more**.
- We **cannot live well** without it.
- **God** calls us to **seek His face**.
- He wants a **personal response** from us.
- We are told to **seek Him continually**.
- Not **only sometimes**, but **always**.
- Having a **specific place** helps build a **habit**.
- It makes it **easier** to return each day.
- The place does **not** need to be **special**.
- It only needs to be **quiet** and **consistent**.
- Sitting at **Jesus' feet** means **choosing Him first**.
- It means **learning from Him** above all else.
- We may **miss a day** sometimes.
- But we should **not stay away** for long.
- We must **guard against** losing the habit.
- A strong relationship needs **daily attention**.
- Our time with **God** shows our **priorities**.
- What we choose daily **reveals** what matters most.

### Question

- Why did **Jesus** choose a **quiet place** to pray?

### Answer

- Because time **alone with God** was necessary for **strength**, **focus**, and a **close relationship** with His Father.

### Reflection

- What does your **daily routine** reveal about your **priorities**?

### Takeaway

- Choose a **place**, meet **God** there **daily**, and keep your **connection with Him strong**.

# April 28: Tuesday - Deep Bible Study

**Read:** Psalm 119:15–16; Psalm 119:105

## Summary

- Deep Bible study does **not require** special **education**.
- It requires the right **approach** and **attitude**.
- **Prayer** must come **first** and continue **throughout**.
- The **Holy Spirit** helps us **understand** truth.
- Without **prayer**, study becomes **empty**.
- With **prayer**, the Word becomes **alive**.
- **Writing** helps us **slow down**.
- It helps us think **clearly** about what we **read**.
- **Writing** moves **truth** from the **mind** to the **heart**.
- It also helps us **remember** what we **learn**.
- Reading **alone** is **not enough**.
- Study requires **reflection** and **response**.
- Reading **aloud** can also help.
- It keeps the **mind focused** and **active**.
- **Sharing** what we learn **strengthens** understanding.
- It also **encourages** others in their **faith**.
- Studying a **small portion** helps us go **deeper**.
- It is better to understand **little** than to **rush** through **much**.
- We should **observe** the **text** carefully.
- We should ask what it **means**.
- We should **apply** it to our **lives**.
- We should **respond** in **prayer**.
- **God** reveals **truth step by step**.
- New **understanding** comes with **growth**.
- As we grow in **grace**, we see **more clearly**.
- **God** continues to **open our minds** to **His Word**.

## Question

- What makes Bible study **deep** and **meaningful**?

## Answer

- **Prayer**, **careful thinking**, personal **reflection**, and **applying** the **truth** to **daily life**.

## Reflection

- Do you **only read** the Bible, or do you take **time** to **understand** and **apply** it?

## Takeaway

- **Slow down**, **pray**, **reflect**, and **apply God's Word** so it can **truly change** your **life**.

# April 29: Wednesday - A Double Blessing

**Read:** Isaiah 50:4; Philippians 3:14; John 17:3

## Summary

- There are **many ways** to study the **Bible**.
- We can study **verses**, **chapters**, **themes**, or **whole books**.
- We can use **tools** like a **concordance** or Bible **dictionary**.
- We can also study with **others** or **listen** to the Bible.
- Using **different methods** keeps study **fresh**.
- It helps keep our **time with God alive** and **interesting**.
- There is **always more** to learn in the **Bible**.
- We **never reach the end** of its **truth**.
- **Sharing** what we learn **strengthens** understanding.
- It helps **fix truth** more clearly in the **mind**.
- **Teaching others** deepens our own **learning**.
- We understand **better** when we **explain**.
- **Sharing** also **blesses others**.
- It **encourages** and **strengthens** their **faith**.
- Bible study becomes a **double blessing**.
- It helps **both** the **speaker** and the **listener**.
- What we study is **not only for us**.
- It is also **meant to help others**.
- **God** teaches us so we can **teach others**.
- He gives us **words** to **encourage** people each day.
- Spiritual life is a **long journey**.
- It requires **steady** and **daily effort**.
- We should **not give up** if we **slow down**.
- We can **always return** and **continue**.
- **Knowing God** is the **goal** of study.
- This relationship is **eternal life**.

## Question

- Why is **sharing** what you learn **important**?

## Answer

- Because it **strengthens** your **understanding** and also **encourages others** in their **faith**.

## Reflection

- What have you learned **recently**, and **who** can you share it with?

## Takeaway

- What you learn from **God** is **not only for you**. **Share it**, and **both** you and others will **grow**.

# April 30: Thursday - 'Tis So Sweet

**Read:** Psalm 119:103–104; Isaiah 55:1–13

## Summary

- **God's Word** is compared to **honey**.
- It is **sweet** and **pleasant** to the **soul**.
- This **sweetness** is not like **ordinary food**.
- It brings **healing** and **change** to the **life**.
- **God's Word** gives **understanding**.
- It helps us see **truth clearly**.
- Through His Word, we learn how to **live**.
- It guides our **thoughts** and **actions**.
- The Bible satisfies the **inner life**.
- **Nothing else** can fully satisfy the **soul**.
- **God** invites us to **come** and **receive freely**.
- He offers **life**, **truth**, and **spiritual strength**.
- His invitation is **open to all**.
- But we must **choose** to **respond**.
- He calls us to **listen carefully**.
- He asks us to **turn to Him**.
- **God** promises **change** and **renewal**.
- His Word will **not fail** to do its **work**.
- The Word reaches the **heart deeply**.
- It shapes the **mind** and **character**.
- But this happens **only when** we **study it**.
- We must come with **humility** and **willingness**.
- We must be ready to **obey** what we learn.
- True study leads to **real change**.

## Question

- What does it mean that **God's Word** is "**sweet**"?

## Answer

- It means His Word brings **joy**, **satisfaction**, and **life-changing truth** to the **soul**.

## Reflection

- Do you find **joy** in **God's Word**, or does it feel like a **duty**?

## Takeaway

- **God's Word** satisfies the **soul**, but **only when** we **come**, **receive**, and **follow it**.

# May 1: Friday - Further Thought

**Read:** Counsels to Writers and Editors, pp. 36, 41 by Ellen G. White

## Summary

- The **goal** of Bible study is to **know God**.
- It is about building a **real relationship** with **Him**.
- **Eternal life** is **knowing God personally**.
- This relationship grows through **His Word**.
- A true relationship involves **both sides**.
- **Jesus** invites us, but **we must respond**.
- We should **keep searching** the Bible.
- There is **always more truth** to discover.
- Bible study is like **digging for treasure**.
- We must keep seeking **deeper understanding**.
- We should **not stop learning**.
- Growth requires **continuous study**.
- We must **not force** the Bible to fit **our ideas**.
- **God's Word** must shape our **thinking**.
- Human opinions **can mislead us**.
- Scripture must remain the **final authority**.
- We need **humility** when studying the Bible.
- A proud heart **cannot receive truth**.
- We must be **willing to change**.
- **God's Word** corrects and guides us.
- Trying to be **original** can be **dangerous**.
- Truth should **not be changed** to sound new.
- **God's Word** is **living and powerful**.
- It still speaks **clearly today**.

## Question

- Why is **humility** important in Bible study?

## Answer

- Because we must allow **God's Word** to **shape us**, instead of **forcing it to fit our own ideas**.

## Reflection

- Do you let the Bible **correct your thinking**, or do you try to **control its meaning**?

## Takeaway

- **Keep studying**, **stay humble**, and let **God's Word** shape your **life**.