

## The New Testament Application Study

In the Bible, Jesus teaches us that the two greatest commands are to love God and to love others (Matt. 22:37-40). Jesus teaches us that loving Him looks like obeying His commands (John 14:15-24). So in order for us to love God and others, we need to first learn His commands so that we can obey them. This is why reading the New Testament of the Bible is important. So in this study, you'll read through the New Testament, with the main goal of finding teachings that you can practically apply to your life so that you can love God and others.

### How to do the Study

This study has two simple steps:

- 1) Read through the New Testament, starting in Matthew, then skip ahead to John, and then read straight through to Revelation. Then go back and read Mark and Luke.
  - Try to set aside a time (or two) to read each day, and try to **read at least 3 chapters per day**.
  - Keep in mind that the main goal is to grow in loving God and others, so if you learn a lot in one chapter (like Matthew 5), spend extra time thinking about how to apply what you read, instead of reading more. But if you don't see anything to apply, you can read more than 3 chapters that day.
- 2) As you read, **write down at least one or two ways you should change how you think or live** from what you read each day.
  - Taking notes is important because it helps you focus on what you're reading, and it gives you something practical to apply, which is how we will grow in loving God and others.
  - After you've written down your application points, pray and ask God to help you apply these points to your life, and then think about them throughout the day.
  - Also, try to find one person each day to share something you learned about God through your reading, and consider encouraging them to read that passage as well, or maybe invite them to come with you to a Bible Study.

### Background of the Bible

The Old Testament teaches us about how God created the world, and about His interaction with the people of Israel. This was a nation God started by blessing a man named Abraham. Several hundred years later, God sent a man named Moses to bring the descendants of Abraham out of the nation of Egypt where they were in slavery. After God brought these people out of slavery by His mighty power, He gave them the Law to follow as a nation if they wanted to be in a relationship with God. The rest of the Old Testament is mainly about God's interaction with the nation of Israel. Over the course of time, God told them that He would send them a Savior, a Christ, who would teach them about a new way that God wanted to interact with people. This Christ is Jesus, the Son of God.

The New Testament teaches us about Jesus coming to earth, living a perfect life, teaching us the ways of God, then dying for our sins and being raised from the dead. The life of Jesus is mainly taught in the first four books of the New Testament; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (the Gospels). Next is the book of Acts, which is an overview of how the early followers of Jesus spread His message of the Kingdom. The next 21 books are letters written by people sent by God to teach and preach about Jesus. Many of the letters are written to the churches in different cities instructing them how to live godly lives, and correcting problems or false teachings. The final book of the New Testament is called Revelation, which tells us what will happen in the end when Jesus returns and judges the people of the world for their sin. It concludes by telling us of the hope of eternal life with God that we have if we continue to follow Jesus by faith.