

Is This English Class or Bible Study

Building Biblical Literacy as you Walk Out
Your True Identity in Christ

A Journal of Strategies for Studying God's Word

By Denise M. Walker



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Is This English Class or Bible Study? 30 DAY JOURNAL

*Have you ever been reading the Bible and said, "I want to go deeper."
If so, you are in the right place.*

This is not a typical journal. You will not draw images but will be given strategies to dig deeper in the word of God. These strategies are inspired by the skills we have already obtained in our English classes. I have been an educator for eighteen years and over the years, God began to give me the revelation that we also need to build our biblical literacy using many of the same strategies. This book will not tell you how to think but will provide you with ways to come up with your own questions, applications, devotionals, prayers, or even affirmations.

They are simply tools and strategies that I have developed over the years by the power of the Holy Spirit. They have helped me to rightly divide the word of truth as stated in 2 Timothy 2:15. God's word is vital. It is how we come to know Him in a greater way. If we depend on everyone else telling us what it means, then how do we personally grow in Him?

Take a faith journey with me for the next thirty days. I guarantee you will not be disappointed. You will identify scriptures that will grow your faith in God as well as come up with ways to help you walk with him more closely. You will need the Bible, digital or paperback. You will need a Bible dictionary, notecards, pencils or pens, which ever you prefer. You will also need book/binder rings and a hole punch.

You will need to set aside time to be consistent on this journey.

I pray that it will bless you and you will continue it over and over again. God desires a relationship with us. With a relationship comes getting to know each other. He already knows us; he knew us before we were formed in our mother's womb according to Jeremiah 1:5. We need to get to know Him more. Let's go!

- Denise M. Walker

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Strategy #1

Now that you have all of your materials you need. Let's begin. We will use many different strategies throughout this thirty day journey. You will be able to study topics and entire chapters.

Let's begin with defining a term or phrase. Choose any term or phrase that you have always wanted to study. This is one of the most basic ways to enhance your understanding of God's word. You can use the same theme centered around this term or phrase with all of the strategies or change up each time. Just have fun and don't give up.

Grab a Strong's Concordance. Locate a scripture using that term or phrase. You may want to do an online search or you may even know one off the top of your head.

Term/Phrase: (Ex. Faith)

Definition:

Part of Speech:

Strong's Number:

List as many synonyms you can think of for the term/phrase:

Cross Reference Scriptures with the same Strong's number:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Questions:

1. *Which scriptures stand out? Why?*

2. How can you *apply* this term/phrase to your life ?

3. Why is it important to understand this term or phrase?

4. Why is the part of speech important?

Tip:



Using your index cards, hole punch and binder rings, begin creating your own personal dictionary of words from



*Date*_____

Create a prayer, journal entry steps or an affirmation for the term studied.

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studied.

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Strategy #2

Next, you are going to use the use a few symbolic strategies. They symbols that represent something that can be applied to your live. This first one is called the addition and subtraction strategy. It represents those things that need to be added or subtracted from your life. I love this strategy because of the practical way it can be used.

Locate a scripture centered around the previous term you chose or one about your favorite person in scripture or a chapter from one of your favorite books. Read it in its entirety. As you read, note the following:

- 1. Who is speaking?*
- 2. To whom are they speaking and why?*
- 3. What's the subject?*
- 4. Key points from the chapter.*

After you have gotten the basics out of the way, read the chapter again and fill in the graphic organizer below with things in the scripture you can add to your life and things mentioned that need to be subtracted from your life.



<i>Things I need to add</i>	<i>Things I need to subtract</i>

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*Date*_____

Journal: Why is it important for you add and/or subtract the things listed on the graphic organizer?

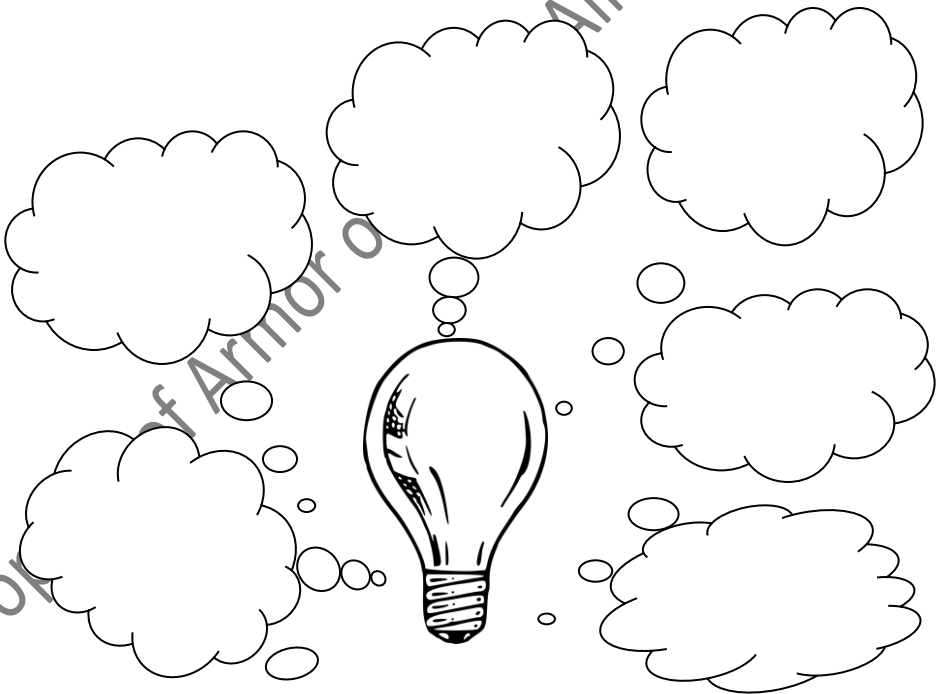
listed on the graphic organizer?

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Strategy #3

This next symbolic strategy is called “Be the Light.” It has to do with overcoming the sin and yokes in our lives and walking in the light of Christ. It also has to do with standing out from the world.

To use this strategy, you simply locate a chapter in scripture on sin or purpose. There are plenty of them. For example, you can use the book of Genesis, Galatians, Colossians, or 1 John. Read the chapter you have chosen in its entirety and locate ways you can be a light for God in the world. Fill in the graphic organizer below.



*Date*_____

Write a prayer asking God to help you in the areas noted above.

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Strategy #4

The next symbolic strategy is called “What I notice?” It is used when you want to take a closer look at an individual’s encounter with God.

Locate a scripture about a person who encountered the LORD. Read the entire chapter and complete the following first:

- 1. Who is the individual?*
- 2. What words are repeated in the scripture?*
- 3. Define the term/ terms here or in your dictionary you started with strategy number one.*

Next, complete the graphic organizer below. Be creative. Let the Holy Spirit guide you through the chart. What does the individual see, hear, feel and do?

*Date*_____

Journal: What did you learn about God using this strategy?

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Strategy #5

This next strategy is an acronym for “P.A.T.H.” This is used to trace the path of a righteous person’s life. You will enjoy following an example and actually being able to apply what they did to your own life.

Locate a scripture of a righteous individual. Read the entire story about their life. It may be more than one chapter. A few examples are the following: Abraham, Jacob, Noah, Apostle Paul, Deborah, or Ruth. There are many, many more.

If needed, read through their life story again. After you have a pretty good understanding of their life, complete the strategy on the next page. It gives you terms that connect to the person’s walk with God.

Finally, you will make a list of principals and lifestyle differences you noticed in the individual as they walked with the LORD.

Extend this strategy:



Take the principals and create a small vision board with specifics on how you plan to apply those principles to every area of your life.



Trace the P.A.T.H.

*P – What was God’s **purpose** for this individual?*

*A – What **alternative** route could they have taken?*

*T – In what areas did this individual have to **trust** in the living God?*

*H – How did the individual heal and bring **hope**?*

*Date*_____

Journal: List the principles you learned from reading about this individual. Place a star next to your favorite ones.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Pastor Denise M. Walker is the founder of Hope-in-Christ Ministries, Inc. Hope-in-Christ is an evangelism ministry which consists of an online book club, podcasts, a speaking and writing ministry. Pastor Denise has served in the field of education for over eighteen years and has also given back to the community through youth mentoring and serving youth in her church.

Pastor Denise is also the owner and operator of Armor of Hope Writing & Publishing Services. Through Armor of Hope, she publishes her own Christian Fiction novels and journals, coaches other new and aspiring authors and serves as an editor for small Christian publishing companies.

"Is This English Class or Bible Study" is the second biblical literacy journal by Pastor Walker. Her first journal, Re-Presenting God, was published in 2017. All of her journals are used to assist in building biblical literacy and helping others find the truth of their identity in God's word.